A MAP OF THE
RAILWAYS OF
STAFFORD
SHIRE
CHESHIRE
SHROP-
SHIRE
North Rode
Bosley
Congleton
Rushton
Rudyard
Mow Cop
Biddulph
Kidsgrove
LEEK
CREWE
Alsager
Black Bull
Harecastle
Golden Hill
Endon
Wall
Chatterley
Ford Gr
Stockton
Audley
Longport
Milton
Halmerend
Burslem
Bucknall
HANLEY
Etruria
Fenton
STOKE-on-
NEW-
CASTLE
Fenton
Longton
Madeley
Trentham
Blythe Br
Pipe Gate
road
Whitmore
Barlaston
Norton
Ashley
Swinnerton
Standon Br
Stone
Aston
Norton Br
Sandon
Eccleshall
Gt.
Salt
High
Offley
Bridgeford
Ingestre
Milford
Haughton
STAFFORD
Gnosall
Newport
Ch. Eaton
Penkridge
Sheriff
Hales
Weston
Gailey
Four Ashes
WELLINGTON
Cannock
Codsall
Bushbury
Dunstall Pk
WOLVERHAMPTON
Bilston
Deepfields
Princes End
Tipton
Dudley Port
DUDLEY
Round Oak
Brierley Hill
Brettel La
STOURBRIDGE
Junc
Arley
Kidderminster

Hurdlow
Longnor
Parsley Hay
Hartington
Hulme End
Dove Dale
Alsop
Tissington
Ipstones
Thorpe
Water-houses
Ashbourne
DERBYSHIRE
Oakamoor
Clifton
Norbury
Rocester
DERBY
UTTOXETER
Marchington
Sudbury
Tutbury
Grindley
Bagots
Rolleston
Stretton
Abbots Bromley
Hornington
BURTON
Branston
Needwood Forest
Barton & Walton
Armitage
Alrewas
Croxall
Clifton Campvill
LICHFIELD
Elford & Haselour
Hammerwich
Shenstone
TAMWORTH
Pelsall
Blake St
Wilnecote
Aldridge
Drayton Basset
Streetley
WALSALL
SUTTON COLDFIELD
Wood Gr
Bescot
Perry Bar
Aston
BIRMINGHAM
Harborne
WARWICKSHIRE
- A Scale of Ten Miles -
0
5
10
- BCB -

Winifred R. Barber.

With love from

Aunt Jessie.

STAFFORDSHIRE July 192

THE LITTLE GUIDES

CAMBRIDGE AND ITS COLLEGES
OXFORD AND ITS COLLEGES
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
THE TEMPLE
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

THE ENGLISH LAKES
THE MALVERN COUNTRY
SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY
SNOWDONIA

BEDFORDSHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS
CHESHIRE
CORNWALL
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
DERBYSHIRE
DEVON
DORSET
DURHAM
ESSEX
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
HAMPSHIRE
HEREFORDSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
THE ISLE OF WIGHT
KENT
LANCASHIRE
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
LINCOLNSHIRE
LONDON
MIDDLESEX
MONMOUTHSHIRE
NORFOLK
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NORTHUMBERLAND
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OXFORDSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE
SOMERSET
STAFFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY
SUSSEX
THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
THE NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE
WILTSHIRE
WORCESTERSHIRE

NORTH WALES
SOUTH WALES
KERRY
BRITTANY
NORMANDY
ROME
SICILY

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LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: WEST FRONT

STAFFORDSHIRE

By

CHARLES MASEFIELD

With Thirty-two Illustrations, Two Plans, and Two Maps

Piscator Junior. You are welcome into Staffordshire.

CHARLES COTTON

LONDON
METHUEN & CO. LTD.
36 *Essex St. Strand*

Third Edition

First Published . . . *June 17th 1910*
Second Edition . . . *April 1919*
Third Edition . . . *1923*

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

TO

THOSE WHO ARE,

TO

THE DEAD WHO HAVE BEEN,

AND TO

THE LIVING AND THE UNBORN WHO WILL BE

LOVERS OF STAFFORDSHIRE

PREFACE

BY many people who ought to know better, Staffordshire is regarded as something of a slut among the counties. Possessed of the knowledge that Staffordshire contains both the "Black Country" and the "Potteries," they look upon it as a region in which the landscape is occupied with "works" and pit-banks, and the atmosphere begrimed by reeking chimney-stacks. Any one who has ever spent a week in the county will smile at notions so mistaken. When George Eliot, in writing "Adam Bede," the standard Staffordshire novel, sought a fictitious name for the county, she chose the eloquent one of "Loamshire." Five-sixths of the county are, in fact, wholly rural in character, and, though comparatively few are aware of it, much of its scenery is extremely beautiful.

In the following pages I have done my best, so far as the limitations of a book intended for the pocket allow, to give an adequate account of the main features of the history, archæology, and scenery of the county, and under the various headings of the introduction I have also referred very briefly to such matters as the climate, communications, industries, and flora and fauna of Staffordshire.

The difficulty of my task has been chiefly due to

the necessity of supplying by personal observation the lack of any book on the churches of Staffordshire. The nearest approach to this much-to-be-desired work is to be found in the papers written by Messrs C. Lynam, A. Scrivener, and J. H. Beckett, scattered through the annual "Reports" of the North Staffordshire Field Club, and from these I have derived much assistance. In ascertaining and verifying points of history, and in sketching the lives of the Staffordshire Worthies, I have found the fascinating volumes of the "Dictionary of National Biography" of great service, and I owe my thanks for personal aid to Mr C. Lynam for the use of a plan of Croxden Abbey, to Mr J. R. B. Masefield for assistance in the section dealing with the flora and fauna, to Mr G. B. H. Soame and Mr H. Ashton Hill for information with regard to Staffordshire rainfall, and to Rev. Dr J. C. Cox for reading my book in manuscript and for making several valuable suggestions for its improvement.

I have not spared pains in the pursuit of accuracy, but I am well aware that in a book which consists, as this does, almost wholly of facts, perfect accuracy is hardly to be hoped for, and I shall be very grateful to any correspondents who will inform me of errors or omissions (within the scope of the book) which they may discover.

C. M.

141 Tettenhall Road,
Wolverhampton, *April* 1910.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

A NEW edition of this little book having been called for, it has fallen to the lot of the author's mother to revise the pages and incorporate her son's notes made for this purpose, from time to time, as occasion arose. She has also consulted several friends on doubtful points, and she trusts that she has neglected nothing that should have had attention.

Mr Charles J. B. Masefield obtained a commission in the North Stafford Regiment in August 1915, and went to the Front in June 1916. He was gazetted Acting Captain the following year, and awarded the Military Cross, June 1917; was wounded and taken prisoner on July 1st, and died the following day, aged 35. He was buried at Le Forest, near Lens. In private life Mr Masefield was a solicitor, and practised at Wolverhampton and Cheadle. Practically all his life was spent in Staffordshire, to which he was greatly attached.

CHEADLE, *July* 1918.

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(*From a Photograph by F. Frith & Co.*)

MAP OF STAFFORDSHIRE . . *Inside Back Cover*

STAFFORDSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

I. Situation, Extent, and Boundaries

STAFFORDSHIRE is one of the north-west Midland counties. It is bounded on the N.W. by Cheshire, on the N.E. and E. by Derbyshire, is just touched on the E. by Leicestershire, has Warwickshire on the S.E., Worcestershire on the S., and Shropshire on the W. It is more or less lozenge-shaped, its greatest length from N. to S. being directly 54 m., and obliquely 59 m., and its greatest breadth from E. to W. directly 33 m., and obliquely 37 m. Its limits are purely artificial, except on parts of its northern and eastern sides, where it is bounded by the rivers Dane, Dove, and Trent, and for a few miles on the W., where the brooks Tern and Meece form its bounds. The changes that occur in the course of a river during the geologically minute period of a thousand years or so are curiously shown by the fact that the present course of the Dove now varies slightly from the county boundary in several places.

The present area of the county is 745,744 acres. Through administrative changes made at different periods during the 19th cent., it gained 1594 acres from Derbyshire and Warwickshire, and gave 3969 acres to Worcestershire. It is of medium size, being eighteenth in point of area among the English counties.

It was anciently divided into five hundreds, named

apparently after the meeting-places of the Hundred Moots. Totmonslow Hundred was in the N., Pirehill in the N.W., Offlow in the E., Cuttlestone in the W., and Seisdon in the S.

II. General Physical Features and Scenery

The scenery of Staffordshire falls into two very distinct areas, the one of upland country and the other of lowland. The two may easily be separated on a map by drawing a line from N.W. to S.E. across the upper angle of the county. To speak more particularly, this line begins on the Cheshire border at Mow Cop, and, skirting the northern edge of the Potteries, passes through Endon to Cheddleton, there reaching the Churnet, whose course it follows thenceforward until the stream falls into the Dove on the Derbyshire boundary at Rocester. N. of this line lies the region geologically composed of millstone grit and mountain limestone and known as the Staffordshire Moorlands; to the S. of it is an undulating but mostly low-lying country, chiefly of pebble-beds and sandstone. Five-sixths of the county, or even more, are in the basin of the Trent, which rises in the county on Biddulph Moor, and describes a great curve through it. The principal tributaries which it receives in Staffordshire are the Sow (at Great Haywood), the Blythe (near King's Bromley), the Tame (near Alrewas), and the Dove (at Newton Solney). These, again, have their tributaries: the Sow receives the Meece near Chebsey, and the Penk at Baswich; into the Dove flow the Manifold at Ilam and the Churnet at Rocester. The only Staffordshire streams of any size which belong to other river-systems are the Dane, which flows into

the Weever and so into the Mersey, and the Tern and the Stour, which go to swell the Severn.

The highest elevations in the county are the Roches (1657 feet at their highest point), Merryton Law (1603 feet), Morredge (1521 feet), Thorncliff (1505 feet), Beacon Stoop, the highest of the Weever Hills (1217 feet), and Mow Cop (1091 feet). These are all in the Moorlands; elsewhere no point in the county rises to 900 feet, though Wetley Moor, the highest point of Cannock Chase, Barr Beacon, and Sedgley Beacon all attain to more than 800 feet.

The Moorlands, or the "Stone Wall Country," as the district is called by some, in allusion to the feature which instantly distinguishes it from the southern region of hedgerows, are of course an extension of the Derbyshire "Peak." They are the main attraction of Staffordshire to those whose deepest affection is for the scenes with which man has least interfered. The memory which they first summon to the mind is one of a sky illimitably wide—a canvas upon which morning, noon, or evening has ample space to paint its shifting moods—of a distant vision of a domestic region lying mapped-out far below, and of a silence which seems still to retain some memory of that of a new-created world. These elements of the Moorland landscape are portrayed or suggested with delicate skill in the paintings of George Heming Mason. The details have their own charm—the gray stone farms within the tree-clumps, the heather, the close-bitten thymy turf, the roads that go undaunted sheer up the steepest hill, the lonely churches outlined against the heaven.

The valleys of the Moorlands are better known, but by no means so well as they deserve. Most English people have heard of Dovedale, but not many outside

Staffordshire folk know the hardly less exquisite dales of the Hamps, the Manifold, the Churnet, and the Dane. Their attraction lies in their happy combination of wood, stream, and rock, in the infinite variety of the arrangement of the three factors, and in their amazing twists and turns and their consequent unceasing renewal of lovely vistas.

But the Moorlands after all are only a small fraction of the county. In extra-Moorland Staffordshire the features which have most deeply set their mark on the aspect of the county are the two manufacturing districts already named: the "Potteries" in the N.W., and the "Black Country" in the S.E. Both owe their existence to the riches above which they are built —the seams of the "North Staffordshire" and "South Staffordshire" coalfields. The hearts of both districts are perhaps as dismal and hideous as anything in England, but they both have this redeeming virtue—that their limits are very sharply defined. You may indeed often pass, within half a mile, out of smoke and din into the green beauty of a natural temple, and it is no exaggeration to say that easily within sight of their forests of kilns and chimneys there are country lanes as unspoiled as any in the heart of Wales.

And even the heart of the Black Country has one season when it is not merely repellent, as may be found by anyone who travels over it in the railway by night, and looks at its stupendous display of fiery furnaces, flame and smoke, leaping sparks and glowing skies.

The facts of geology easily explain why Staffordshire outside the Moorlands contains no impressive scenery. Fine scenery demands sharp outlines and therefore hard rocks, which the sandstones and pebble-beds of extra-Moorland Staffordshire cannot supply. Yet the wooded ridges, which are a common feature,

are beautiful in themselves, and have a way of becoming still more beautiful in the infinite relations of their lines. Then there are an abundance of fine parks containing ancient timber—the surviving oaks of Needwood Forest being particularly famous. There is also one area which for charm almost rivals the Moorlands. This is the great tract in the centre of the county, between Stafford and Lichfield, called Cannock Chase. Its 30,000 acres of high, peaty moors, covered in some parts with bracken and heather, and in others with woods, and intersected by pretty brown streams, form an expanse of common land such as exists in no other Midland county.

The river-scenery of the Trent is unfortunately considerably discounted by the large amount of foul matter discharged into it, but several of the lesser streams, besides those of the northern dales, have picturesque reaches.

In contradistinction to several of the Midland shires, Staffordshire possesses this great virtue—that it is nowhere monotonously flat. In a sentence, it may be said that it contains two frankly hideous manufacturing districts, much pleasant, undulating, well-wooded country, and two areas (the Moorlands and Cannock Chase), which hardly suffer by comparison with the loveliest inland scenery in England.

III. Climate

1. *Rainfall.*—In inland counties hills are, through attracting clouds, the chief factors in the rainfall. One finds, therefore, that in Staffordshire the comparatively flat districts of the centre and south have a considerably smaller annual rainfall than the hilly

district of the N.E. The average annual rainfall at Wall Grange, near Leek, during the thirty-nine years, 1870 to 1908, was 35.36 inches, the wettest year having been 1872, with 55.76 inches, and the driest 1893, with 26.16 inches. At Heath House, Tean, the average fall for the twenty years, 1875 to 1894, was 38.24 inches. At Scout House, near Hednesford, on the other hand, the average fall for the nineteen years, 1890 to 1908, was only 22.19 inches, the extremes being 30.12 inches in 1903 and 16.36 inches in 1890. Compared with England as a whole, this is a very small amount, as in the driest English county, Cambridgeshire, the average rainfall is 22.5 inches, while in parts of Wales and the Lake District it exceeds 60 inches.

2. *Temperature.*—The average mean temperature at Heath House, Tean, for the eight years, 1899-1906, was 46°, and the variations from this average in other parts of the county, except on the Moorlands, are probably slight. On the Moorlands the average mean temperature probably approximates closely to that of Buxton, which, although so healthy, is one of the coldest towns in England, having a mean temperature of only 44°. The mean temperature of England as a whole is about 47° or 48°.

3. *Sunshine.*—So far as I am aware, the annual amount of sunshine has not yet been recorded in Staffordshire for a period long enough to give the results any real value.

IV. Flora and Fauna

Though the population of Staffordshire is greater than that of any of the neighbouring counties, it is for the most part gathered into comparatively small areas,

and the rural portions of the county still abound in wild life.

Flowering Plants.—About 950 species, or, roughly, half the total number of British species, have been found in Staffordshire. The diversity of altitudes and geological formations produces a very varied flora, including many sub-Alpine species. Among the rarer plants of the county are *Clematis vitalba* (Traveller's Joy), *Thalictrum flavum* (Meadow Rue), *Ranunculus lingua* (Great Spear-wort), *Helleborus viridis* (Green Hellebore), *Aquilegia vulgaris* (Columbine), *Chelidonium majus* (Greater Celandine), *Hutchinsia petræa* (Rock Hutchinsia), *Viola hirta* (Hairy Violet), *Viola lutea* (Yellow Mountain Pansy), *Drosera rotundifolia* (Sundew), *Dianthus deltoides* (Maiden Pink), *Silene nutans* (Nottingham Catchfly), *S. noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly), *Geranium pyrenaicum* (Mountain Crane's-bill), *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin), *G. tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed), *Ornithopus perpusillus* (Bird's Foot), *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry). Some 50 species of bramble, besides varieties, are found in the county. *Geum rivale* (Water Avens) is very local. *Potentilla argentea* (Hoary Cinquefoil) and *Agrimonia odorata* (Sweet Agrimony) are rare. About ten species of roses grow in the county. *Parnassia palustris* (Grass of Parnassus) is common on the Limestone. *Myrrhis odorata* (Sweet Cicely), *Sambucus edulis* (Danewort), *Valeriana pyrenaica* (Heart-leaved Valerian), and *Petasites albus* (White Butter-bur) near Cheadle, *Carlina vulgaris* (Carline Thistle), *Vaccinium oxycoccus* (Cranberry), *Andromeda polifolia* (Marsh Andromeda), *Pyrola rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Winter-Green), *P. media* and *P. minor*, *Chlora perfoliata* (Yellow-wort), *Gentiana amarella* (Autumn Gentian), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Buckbean), *Pole-*

monium cæruleum (Jacob's Ladder), *Anchusa sempervirens* (Evergreen Alkanet), *Lathræa squamaria* (Tooth-wort), *Orobanche elatior*, are other interesting plants. *Mimulus luteus* (Monkey-flower) is naturalised and spreading along all the streams in the north of the county. *Leonurus cardiaca* (Motherwort) and *Galeopsis versicolor* occur; *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Butterwort), *Utricularia vulgaris* (Bladderwort), *Hottonia palustris* (Water Violet), *Rumex alpinus* (Monks' Rhubarb), *Euphorbia cyparissias* (Cypress Spurge), *Empetrun nigrum* (Crowberry), *Orchis pyramidalis*, *O. ustulata*, *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchis), *Habenaria viridis* (Frog Orchis), *Crocus vernus* (Spring Crocus), *C. nudiflorus*, *Fritillaria meleagris* (Fritillary), *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel), are mostly very local.

Most of these particulars have been taken from Mr J. E. Bagnall's book on "The Flora of Staffordshire"; the article on the subject in "The Victoria History" is also from his pen.

Ferns.—The rage for fern-pressing which prevailed during the "sixties" and "seventies" of the nineteenth century, and the gathering of roots for sale in the towns, are responsible for the complete or virtual extinction of most of the rarer species except in remote or inaccessible spots. Among those to which this remark applies are *Hymenophyllum unilaterale* (Filmy Fern), *Asplenium viride* (Green Spleenwort), *A. ceterach* (Scale Fern), *Polypodium phegopteris* (Beech Fern), *P. dryopteris* (Oak Fern), and *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern). *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's Tongue), and *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort), are local.

Mammals.—Of bats, the Noctule, the Pipistrelle, and the Long-eared Bat are common, Daubenton's and the Whiskered Bat, occur sparsely, and there are

THE WILD WHITE CATTLE OF CHARTLEY

single instances of the Serotine and Lesser Horse-shoe Bats having occurred within the county. The fox, hare, rabbit, squirrel, hedgehog, mole, stoat, and weasel are all, in greater or less degrees, common enough. The brown rat, and the usual species of the vole or shrew, are general, as are those of the mouse, except the harvest mouse, the occurrence of which is not free from doubt. The badger and otter, though naturally seldom seen, still survive in moderate numbers. The pole-cat and the marten cat have both been extinct since 1850 or thereabouts. Red deer are kept in Alton and Bagot's Parks, whilst there are herds of fallow deer in the parks of Alton, Aqualate, Ashcombe, Bagot's Park, Chartley, Dunstall, Okeover, Swythamley, Trentham, Whiston Eaves, and on Cannock Chase, and a herd of wild goats have been kept in Bagot's Park from time immemorial.

The famous herd of wild white cattle in Chartley Park are now, unfortunately, little more than a memory, though so late as 1898 they numbered fifty-three. The sight of the herd, arrayed in a semi-circle to face an intruder, used to be a magnificent one. The animals were wholly white, save for their black ears, muzzles and hoofs, and had long spreading horns, tipped with black. They were slightly different in type from the kindred herds of Chillingham in Northumberland, and Cadzow in Lanarkshire. They roamed the thousand-acre park at their will, and would never allow themselves to be handled by man, though in the winter they were fed in sheds. Their ancestors, it is known, were driven into the park when it was enclosed from the surrounding Needwood Forest by William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, about 1248, but around the question of the ultimate origin of the breed much discussion has raged. The best present opinion is that the three herds named are derived from the animals domesticated on the Continent

by the Romans, and at length introduced by them into Britain. The fact that the Chillingham and Cadzow cattle possess shorter and less spreading horns than the Chartley herd is probably due to a larger admixture with the Celtic short-horn. The white colour, which is common to all, seems to be solely due to artificial selection.

About the year 1900 an epidemic of tuberculosis unhappily attacked the Chartley herd, and, doubtless owing to ages of in-breeding, they fell easy victims. By 1905 they had been reduced to eight head, and the only chance of saving them from extinction was evidently to introduce fresh blood. Some of the animals were bought by the Duke of Bedford and removed to Woburn, and the breeding experiments which are now in progress there have been largely successful.

Fish.—The streams of Staffordshire have, of course, been classic waters to the angler since they were fished by Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton. Nevertheless it is only the Meece and the Dove which can be certainly stated to have been fished by either of them. The Meece flows past Walton's farm at Shallowford, and is thought to be mentioned in his "Angler's Song" under the name of "Shawford Brook"; Charles Cotton, in the second part of the "Compleat Angler," never tires of celebrating the days which he and his "father," Walton, spent in tempting the Dove trout.

Except the Trent and the Churnet, which are now almost ruined for the fisherman through pollution caused by sewage and manufactories, the streams of the county are still well stocked with fish. The salmon still comes up the Trent to spawn, but at Newton Solney, where the Dove flows in, almost invariably swims up the latter, though it is probable that no salmon nowadays

gets beyond the mill at Tutbury. The trout is common in most of the Staffordshire streams, those of the Dove being particularly prized for their associations. One of the largest trout ever taken in England was a fish captured at Drayton Basset in 1848, which weighed 31 lbs.! The Royal College of Surgeons, moreover, has, or had, the skeleton of this monster to confute all sceptics.

The pike, perch, barbel, chub, roach, dace, and bream are all common, and fine carp and tench are found in most of the meres and large pools. That curious fish, the burbolt, is occasionally taken in the Trent and Penk.

Birds.—Staffordshire, although an inland county, has a remarkably good bird-record. This is due chiefly to three causes: firstly, it possesses varied attractions in the way of moorlands, woodlands, rivers, pools, and sheltered valleys; secondly, it lies on the range-limits of both northern and southern species of birds; thirdly, the line of the route of bird-migration between the Humber and the Bristol Channel passes over its S.E. portion. It thus comes about that it possesses reliable records of the occurrence of 222 out of the 310 species on the British list, very many of those which are not known to have visited the county being of course sea-birds. Ninety-four species are known to breed regularly in the county, and ten others nest occasionally.

The birds of the Moorlands are to a great degree distinct from those of the remainder of the county. The characteristic resident species of the former are the red grouse, the black grouse, the lapwing, the merlin (now rare), the water ouzel, and the stonechat (now rare), while the ring ouzel, the wheatear, the nightjar, and the curlew are the conspicuous summer

migrants. Cannock Chase is the most southerly point in England on which the red grouse breeds.

The list of species common to the lowland parts of the county presents no remarkable feature. There are all the usual summer migrants: the whinchat, redstart, whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, black-cap, garden warbler, chiff-chaff, willow warbler, wood warbler, reed warbler, sedge warbler, the three common wagtails, tree pipit, spotted fly-catcher, swallow, sand-martin, house-martin, swift, turtle dove, and corncrake. The nightingale and grasshopper warbler visit the county to breed most years, though in small numbers, and the pied fly-catcher occurs occasionally and the wryneck rarely. The Dartford warbler nested near Cannock Chase in 1870. The common winter visitors are the fieldfare, redwing, siskin, brambling, and jack snipe, while the crossbill and golden plover come occasionally. The woodcock and snipe both breed in North Staffordshire. The snow bunting and the great snipe are very rare winter visitors.

In Staffordshire, as elsewhere, the gamekeeper has wrought great havoc among many quite harmless species (such as the owls, the woodpeckers, the night-jar, the kestrel, and the merlin), and the egg-collector, and the fool whose only idea on seeing a rare bird is to shoot it do their best to prevent casual visitors becoming regular ones. It can only be hoped that in time the spread of knowledge of birds' habits, and the inception of a public conscience with regard to the wanton slaughter of rare and beautiful creatures, may have their effect.

The aquatic birds which breed in the county (chiefly on pools in private parks) are the wild duck, teal, tufted duck, pochard, shoveler, moor hen, coot, redshank, great crested grebe, and little grebe. Stafford-

hire possesses four heronries: in Patshull Park, in Bagot's Park, on Aqualate Mere, and another not far com Cheadle. The Gailey reservoirs are a favourite inter resort for many of the rarer ducks and waders, nd many other water birds of course visit the county uring their southward winter migrations. Gulls of everal sorts not infrequently pay long visits to the arger sheets of water.

The curious will find in Plot's "Natural History of taffordshire" an account, with an entertaining illustration, of the large "gullery" of black-headed gulls hich in his day bred on the pools near Norbury Manor.

The only book devoted to "The Birds of Staffordhire" is that by Dr A. M. M'Aldowie, published in 893; a revised and completer list is that compiled by Mr J. R. B. Masefield for the first volume of "The Victoria History of Staffordshire" (1908).

V. Distribution of Population

The increase in the population of Staffordshire uring the 19th cent. was enormous. The population 1 1901 amounted to 1,234,533, or more than *five mes* the population of 1801 (the date of the earliest ensus), which was only 242,693. This increase of early 1,000,000 is in remarkable contrast to that in uch a county as Norfolk, which in the same period dded only about 175,000. Among English counties, taffordshire now stands fourth in total population.

The increase has been almost wholly due to the ndustrial districts of the Black Country, the Potteries, nd Burton-upon-Trent, as the following table, showing he rise in the population of the parishes in those areas vill suggest:—

	1801	1901
The Potteries[1]	27,671	238,563
Wolverhampton	12,565	94,187
Walsall	10,399	87,464
West Bromwich	5,687	65,114
Handsworth	2,719	55,269
Burton-upon-Trent	5,278	43,060
Kingswinford	6,464	38,490
Sedgley	9,874	38,179
Rowley Regis	5,027	34,670
Tipton	4,280	30,543
Cannock	1,359	23,974

On the other hand, the populations of the purely agricultural market towns and villages which lie off the railways have increased very slightly, and in some cases have actually diminished, as will be seen from the following instances, taken almost at random :—

	1801	1901
Eccleshall	3,734	4,186
Brewood	2,867	2,535
Gnosall	2,246	2,085
Abbot's Bromley	1,318	1,318
Lapley	759	742
Mavesyn Ridware	486	438
Hints	245	212
Enville	799	645
Pattingham	750	779
Longnor	391	480
Draycott-in-the-Moors	491	351
Ellastone	1,109	996

[1] That is, the ancient parishes of Burslem, Stoke-upon-Trent and Wolstanton. The growth of the separate towns cannot be shown, as they have only recently been divided for census purposes.

In the case of many of these rural parishes, more-
wer, the actual diminution is more serious than would
ppear from the above table, for during the agricultural
rosperity which prevailed up to about the middle of
he century, the populations of most of them were
rowing at a fair rate. Eccleshall, for instance,
eached 4882 in 1861, Brewood 3641 in 1841,
inosall 3161 in 1831, Lapley had over 900 be-
ween 1821 and 1851, Mavesyn Ridware reached
98 in 1821, Pattingham 959 in 1861, and Ellastone
344 in 1831. Certainly there is need of the "back
the land" movement in Staffordshire.

VI. Communications

Roads.—The present-day roads of Staffordshire
ay be described as on the whole very good, although
this respect, as in most others, black marks have to
e set against the Potteries and the Black Country.
he heavy traffic in these districts renders good roads
practical impossibility, and the cyclist or motorist
ho has once suffered in either will make a wide
ircuit to avoid them afterwards. Three Roman
oads cross the county. The first is that best known
f the Watling Streets which connected London
ith north-west Britain. It enters Staffordshire at
azeley, crosses the Icknield Street near Wall, passes
nto Shropshire at Weston-under-Lizard, and there
ivides, one branch going N.W. to Chester, and
he other continuing W. to Wroxeter. To both the
ther roads the English gave the generic name of
cknield Street (since frequently corrupted into Ryk-
ield Street). One, which linked Worcester with
he station at Little Chester (just outside Derby), now
oses itself in Birmingham just before reaching Stafford-

shire, but emerges at Handsworth, and then passes up the eastern side of the county, crossing the Trent at Wichnor Bridges, and leaves it on crossing the Dove at the point where the bridge called "Monks' Bridge" now stands.

The third road is a little-known one, which connected Chester with Little Chester, and so crossed the northern part of Staffordshire. It enters the county near Betley, passes Chesterton, and then runs by way of the modern Newcastle, Stoke, Fenton, and Longton to Upper Tean, where it bifurcates, one branch proceeding to Rocester, and there crossing both the Churnet and the Dove, and the other to Uttoxeter, whence its course cannot be traced. With the exception of occasional short lengths, all these ancient roads are still in use as modern highways, and can usually be distinguished from all later roads by their great breadth and frequent mathematical directness for stretches of several miles together.

The coaching days—the second great era in the history of English roads—also left in Staffordshire a record of their existence which time will find a difficulty in effacing. The characteristic inns and the old milestones may decay with the passage of years, but the roads will assuredly remain in use until flying-machines are universal.

Both the Watling Street and the Worcester-to-Little Chester Icknield Street were utilized as coach-roads. Leaving out of account subsidiary local routes, the coaches ran through Staffordshire on four other important turnpike roads. These were the "Holyhead road" from Birmingham through Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury; the road from Birmingham through Lichfield, King's Bromley, and Sudbury to Ashbourne and Buxton (a route well known to Dr

Johnson); the London-and-Manchester road, which diverged from the Watling Street near Weeford to pass through Lichfield, Rugeley, Stone, and Newcastle; and the road from Birmingham and Wolverhampton to Manchester, which passed through Penkridge and Stafford, and connected with the London and Manchester coaches at Stone.

It is these roads that the touring motorist prefers to-day; consequently the cyclist finds the bye-roads, where he will be less plagued by the blinding dust of the motor wheels, a good deal more pleasant. If their surface is less good (and what bye-roads are perfect?) there is at any rate almost always a breadth sufficient for the modest requirements of a bicycle tyre, and it is far less in the great towns than in the small towns and villages and country roads, far from the highways, that the charm of Staffordshire lies.

The *railways* of the county are shown on the map inside the front cover of this book. The Black Country is covered with a regular tangle of lines, and a smaller tangle connects the towns of the Potteries. The London & North-Western Company has the greatest share in meeting the needs of the county, except in the north, where the North Staffordshire Railway carries all the local traffic. The Great Western has two or three lines in the south, the Midland serves eastern Staffordshire, the Great Northern has a line between Stafford and Uttoxeter, and the Shropshire Union line connects Stafford with Shrewsbury. Two of the North Staffordshire lines pass through very beautiful country, and, fortunately, they do remarkably little to spoil it. One of these is the line which goes from Rushton to Leek and so down the Churnet Valley to Rocester,

and the other the light railway (opened only in 1904) which runs by the side of the river Hamps from Waterhouses to Beeston Tor (where the Hamps falls into the Manifold), and then accompanies the Manifold up-stream to Hulme End.

Not one of the Staffordshire rivers is navigable, but the *canals* are numerous, and many of them still carry a large tonnage of heavy goods. Brindley's "Staffordshire and Worcestershire" canal, starting from the Severn at Stourport, enters Staffordshire at Kinver, and continues up the centre of the county, joining the "Grand Trunk" Canal at Great Haywood. Many of its reaches are remarkably pretty, and it is much used by pleasure-boats during the summer. Brindley's most famous work, the "Grand Trunk" canal, which connects the Mersey with the Trent, enters Staffordshire by the Harecastle Tunnel, a device necessitated by the watershed between the two rivers. It passes through the Potteries, and then follows the bending course of the Trent to Burton. At Alrewas it is joined by the "Essington and Wyrley" canal, which comes from Wolverhampton and Birmingham. On the western side of the county is the "Shropshire Union" canal, which links Birmingham by water with Liverpool. Each of these four trunk lines also has a number of offshoots, which between them reach almost every part of the manufacturing districts of the county.

VII. Industries

The industries of Staffordshire form a subject far too wide to be here dealt with, except in a very general fashion. The county ranks as the third in importance among the industrial counties of England, Yorkshire

and Lancashire coming first and second. It owes this position chiefly to its enormous mineral deposits, the most important of which are those of coal and iron, but there are few minerals of commercial value which are not to be found somewhere or other in the county.

The two chief coal-fields—the South Staffordshire and the North Staffordshire—have been already mentioned. There is also a smaller coal-field at Cheadle. From these deposits coal was got by surface workings certainly as early as the 15th cent., and they have been worked assiduously ever since. In early days, however, miners showed more energy than wisdom, with the result that a considerable proportion of the coal, particularly in South Staffordshire, is now flooded with water, and consequently unworkable. Seams of ironstone are found with those of coal in both the N. and S. coal-fields. The following table showing the minerals got during the year 1906 will give some idea of the extent of the underground wealth of the county.

	Tons raised.	Value.
Coal . . .	13,433,044	£4,533,652
Clay . . .	1,460,042	171,121
Iron ore . . .	1,004,244	326,011
Limestone . .	271,456	19,229
Igneous rocks . .	184,824	28,024
Gravel and sand .	152,816	10,942
Gypsum . . .	49,806	17,755
Sandstone . .	35,031	14,239
Iron pyrites . .	149	82

Brine salt is also worked, but as the returns give the figures for Staffordshire and Cheshire together, the precise amount got cannot be stated.

Pig iron is largely manufactured in both the northern

and southern districts, and in addition to the iron ore raised in the county, almost as much imported ore was smelted in the year 1906. South Staffordshire, with sixteen working blast furnaces, produced 893,164 tons of pig iron in that year, and North Staffordshire, with fifteen furnaces 348,605 tons.

In the Black Country, as everyone knows, the iron and steel trades are predominant. How old its iron trade is it is impossible to say, but in all probability it is not much younger than the Iron Age in which we live. It seems to have first become important in the 16th cent., and in 1607 the Black Country had as many as 140 hammers and furnaces at work, all using charcoal as fuel. It was a South Staffordshire ironmaster, Dud Dudley, a natural son of the fifth Lord Dudley, who first successfully used pit coal for smelting. He obtained a patent for the process in 1619, when he was only twenty, and put it into practice at furnaces at Himley and Askew Bridge, but he suffered grievously from the ill will of other ironmasters. So far indeed was he in advance of his age that coal smelting did not come into general use until the middle of the 18th cent. As Dudley's rivals might have foreseen, the change when it came was of immense advantage to the Staffordshire works, which had large supplies of coal close at hand, and so were enabled to crush entirely such formerly prosperous industries as that of Sussex.

Anything like a complete list of the articles in iron and steel manufactured in the Black Country would be far too long to be given here; it can only be said that it would include almost everything from a bridge to a button, or from a motor car frame to a ferrule. The trade done with the colonies and foreign countries probably exceeds the home trade. Several towns have

made the manufacture of some special article peculiarly their own. Thus locks are chiefly made at Willenhall, keys and traps at Wednesfield, tinplates at Bilston, saddlers' ironmongery at Walsall, and chains and anchors in the district on the Worcestershire border about Tipton, Rowley Regis and Cradley Heath.

The lesser industries of the Black Country are by no means without importance. The manufactures of Wolverhampton are especially various; besides making great quantities of iron, steel, brass, and tin goods, it is the centre of the japanning trade, and has colour and varnish works, breweries, and saw mills. Wednesbury and West Bromwich, and smaller places such as Bilston, Darlaston, and Coseley, are occupied more exclusively with iron and steel, but Brierley Hill and Wordsley make glass and fire-bricks also, and Smethwick has the distinction of possessing the only lighthouse works in the kingdom. Walsall finds its staple trade in the dressing of leather and the making of harness.

If the principal industry of the Potteries is not locally so ancient as that of the Black Country, it is at least of respectable antiquity. Certainly as early as the 16th cent. Burslem, "the mother of the Potteries," did a considerable trade in articles rudely manufactured in "slip-ware" — butter-pots, large bowls and dishes, and so on. In the second half of the 17th cent. there appeared a superior class of this ware, called, from the name of the chief manufacturer, "Toft" ware. The first real advance, however, came about 1690, when two Dutchmen, the brothers Elers, discovered at Bradwell Wood a suitable vein of clay, and established there a manufactory in which they produced during the next twenty years a fine red stoneware, greatly valued to-day. There is now little

doubt that they also introduced into Staffordshire the method of producing the famous salt-glazed stoneware. To preserve their secrets, the traditional story goes that they employed only half-witted persons, and every day searched the workmen before allowing them to leave the factory. Somehow or other, however, their methods were ascertained and imitated by their followers Astbury and Twyford, the first potters to introduce Devonshire and Dorset clays, and decorate the dark body with stamped light-coloured ornaments. The characteristic ware of the next period (1720-1760) is the fine salt-glaze, sometimes called in its earliest forms, which were of a drab colour, "crouch" ware, and in its later and very beautiful stage, misnamed "Elizabethan" ware. This was gradually superseded by the "Whieldon" ware, so called from its principal maker, who had a factory at Fenton from about 1740 to 1780, and was in partnership with Josiah Wedgwood from 1754 to 1759. This may be divided into two varieties: variegated ware, and cream ware. Wedgwood's early experiments were chiefly directed to the improvement of the latter, which, after he obtained royal patronage for it, became known as Queen's ware. The Staffordshire figures—not often highly artistic, but frequently genuinely humorous—were made from about 1750 onward by several makers, the best known of whom were the two Ralph Woods. The achievements of Wedgwood himself are briefly dealt with later in this book. His successes aroused a host of followers, of whom the more notable were perhaps Palmer and Neale (of Hanley) as makers of black basaltes ware, and William Adams (of Tunstall) and John Turner (of Lane End) in the jasper. With the beginning of the 19th cent. the historic period of pottery manufacture may be said to have ended.

The earliest Staffordshire manufacturer of porcelain was William Littler of Longton Hall, who seems to have made it from about 1745 to about 1758; his productions were, however, inferior to those of the contemporary works at Chelsea and Bow. About 1785 the manufacture was recommenced by a company trading at New Hall, Shelton, but the importance of Staffordshire porcelain dates from 1794, when Davenport began to make it at Longport. He was quickly followed (in 1796) by Thomas Minton, and (in 1797) by the Spodes, all of Stoke-on-Trent. Wedgwood himself never made porcelain.

"The Potteries" now consist of six large towns (Hanley, Burslem, Stoke, Longton, Tunstall, and Fenton) and several smaller ones, and in 1910 became one large county borough.[1] The population reaches about 250,000, of whom by far the greater number are directly or indirectly dependent upon the pottery and china trade. Indeed, save for the coal pits and ironworks, this is practically the only industry carried on in the district. The varieties of the wares made are endless, and range from the most utilitarian earthenware to the most delicate porcelain.

That Burton-on-Trent is the metropolis of the brewing industry everybody knows. Burton beer seems to have first become famous about the beginning of the 18th cent., chiefly, it is said, through the excellence of the native spring water used in brewing it; by 1796 there were nine breweries in the town, and by 1851 sixteen. These, however, employed less than 1000 hands; during the last half-century the trade has grown enormously, and now finds work for over 7000 men and boys, while, through improvements in appliances, the output of beer must be a good deal more than seven times that of 1851. There are also

[1] Under the name of Stoke-on-Trent, *q.v.*

breweries at Wolverhampton, Lichfield, Uttoxeter, Stone, Fazeley, and elsewhere.

Leek has an important manufacture of silk, employing over 4000 hands, and there is a smaller silk industry at Cheadle; Stafford and Stone make great quantities of boots and shoes.

Coming to the county's minor industries, those of the Black Country have been mentioned; other parts of Staffordshire furnish several more. Cotton is made at Rocester and Mayfield, tape at Cheadle and Tean, plaster of Paris at Tutbury and Uttoxeter, paper at Tamworth and Cheddleton, copper wire at Oakamoor and Froghall, agricultural implements at Uttoxeter, and scythe stones at Hollington.

VIII. History

No discoveries of the existence of Palæolithic man in Staffordshire have been made, but it is clear that during the Neolithic period the northern parts of the county were well populated, and if the pits on Abbot's Castle Hill, Seisdon, are Neolithic pit-dwellings, the stone-using tribes had a hold on the south of it also. In the Moorlands barrows are very numerous, and are doubtless those of the same people who have left so many traces behind them in the Peak. Discoveries made in them seem to show that the changes from the age of stone to the age of bronze, and from the age of bronze to the age of iron, were stages in the progress of a single race, and not results of the conquest of a more primitive by a more civilized people; in a barrow at Mouse Low, near Grindon, for example, a flint arrow-head was found in a bronze drinking-cup, and a grave at Thor's Cave, near Wetton, contained a sandstone vessel and a bronze pan or kettle with an

iron handle. The bronze-using people seem to have been more widely distributed than the stone-users, for bronze palstaves have been found in the south of the county as well as in the north, and a hoard of bronze weapons was discovered at Shenstone in 1824. Relics of the Early Iron or Celtic age are less numerous in the Moorland barrows than those of the two preceding periods; it may, indeed, be doubted whether iron was used in the district before the Roman Conquest. Two gold torques, one found at Pattingham in 1700 and the other at Hanbury in 1848, are probably to be assigned to this period. Nearly all the barrows in the eastern moorlands of the county were opened, in a far from scientific way, by Mr Samuel Carrington of Wetton, and the two Batemans, about the middle of the 19th cent. The objects discovered are described in Bateman's *Vestiges of Antiquities* and *Ten Years' Diggings*, and in the catalogue of the Bateman Collection at the Sheffield Museum, where they now are.

In the Roman period Staffordshire was of no importance whatever. The Roman roads have been referred to under the head of communications; the only station of any size within the county was that of Letocetum (the modern Wall), on the Watling Street. Uttoxeter was apparently a village, and Rocester and Chesterton military camps. The Moorland tribes evidently gained some tincture of Roman civilization; Bateman excavated a Romano-British village at a place called the "Borough Hole," near Wetton, in which he found glass beads, bronze brooches, and imitations of Roman coins. They retained, however, most of their barbaric customs; fragments of Samian ware found in Thor's Cave, near Wetton, show that they still used caves as habitations, and Roman coins discovered in several barrows prove that they still observed the ancient

manner of burial. No certain proof of Celtic Christianity in Staffordshire has yet been discovered.

The probable date of the first occupation of Staffordshire by the English is about 570. The invaders doubtless came by way of the Trent valley, and soon gained the name of Mercians (*i.e.* men of the march, or Welsh frontier). They continued heathens for about a century, Christianity apparently being introduced about 652 through the conversion in Northumbria of Peada, son of the Mercian king Penda. The first bishop of Mercia was Diuma (656-658), and S. Chad, the fifth bishop (669-672), in the time of King Wulfhere, fixed the headquarters of the see at Lichfield. Offa (757-796), the greatest of all the Mercian kings, had his favourite residence at Tamworth, which, though twice destroyed by the Danes, remained one of the most important towns of Mercia until the Norman Conquest. The Danes ravaged the county between 872 and 875, but the absolute lack of Norse place-names shows that they never permanently settled in it. In 910, moreover, they were utterly defeated at Tettenhall by King Edward the Elder, and in 913 the amazonian Ethelfleda made good her brother's victory by rebuilding the ruined defences of Tamworth and Stafford. During the next century Staffordshire probably enjoyed comparative peace, varied occasionally by a Danish raid from the east, but in 1013, at the close of the miserable reign of Ethelred the Redeless, it was laid waste, with Shropshire and Cheshire, by Edmund Ironside and Uhtred of Northumbria, because Eadric, the traitor Mercian earl, had refused to give adequate assistance against the Danes. Eadric was succeeded in the earldom by Leofwine, whose son and successor, the famous Leofric, died in Staffordshire, at King's Bromley, in 1057.

The real Norman conquest of Staffordshire did not take place till 1069 or 1070, when it rose up in arms, and suffered at William's hands accordingly. Domesday Book shows that the chief grantees of Staffordshire lands were—(1) the Bishop of Chester, (2) Robert de Stafford (originally de Toeni), the founder of the house of Stafford, (3) Roger of Montgomery, the Earl of Shropshire, (4) William Fitz Anculf of Dudley, and (5) Henry de Ferrers of Tutbury. Many indications in Domesday point to the poverty and scanty population of the county, either through natural causes or through the ravages of the conqueror: it is estimated that to every 250 acres there was but one male inhabitant.

In the anarchy of Stephen's reign the two greatest feudal lords of Staffordshire, Henry de Ferrers of Tutbury and Sir Robert Marmion of Tamworth, were both on the king's side, and the former was made Earl of Derby for his valour against the Scots at Northallerton. The subsequent varied story of Tutbury, the most prominent place in the county throughout the feudal period, is detailed later in this book. Henry II. visited Tamworth in 1158, and John was several times in the county on hunting expeditions. Staffordshire was almost wholly on the side of Simon de Montfort against Henry III.; Robert de Ferrers, Ralph Basset of Drayton, Henry de Verdun, and nearly all the heads of lesser houses were for the barons, while Philip Marmion and James de Audley were almost alone in supporting the king.

To the first representative parliament, that of 1295, two members were returned by Staffordshire and two by the borough of Stafford; in 1304 Lichfield also sent two members, and in 1355 Newcastle-under-Lyme sent two. In 1322 occurred Edward II.'s sudden

attack on Thomas Earl of Lancaster at Tutbury, and the latter's flight thence. At Crecy in 1346 a great number of prominent Staffordshire men fought, Ralph de Stafford having an important command. The Black Death of 1349 afflicted the county like all the rest of England"; "there was a great pestilence throughout the whole world," wrote the chronicler of Croxden Abbey, of this first visitation, and of the second in 1361, "there was a second pestilence, and all the children that were born since the first pestilence died." At Poitiers in 1356 Staffordshire was again well represented; Sir James de Audley and his four squires performed especial feats of valour.

During the reigns of Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV., however, the constant home and foreign wars gave malcontents their opportunity, and the Plea Rolls and other records show an amazingly lawless state of affairs in the county. In 1379 Staffordshire petitions stated that "men from Cheshire and Wales rode continually through the county, robbing, burning, and ravishing, and suddenly beating or maiming divers men of the county." In Henry IV.'s reign there was similar trouble through the turbulence of hot-headed men of good county families, such as Hugh de Erdeswyk, Thomas de Swynerton, and John Myners. As a result Henry V. came himself to Lichfield in 1414, and spent two months in deciding complaints. At Agincourt the county was represented by Edward Lord Ferrers of Chartley, Hugh de Stafford, and Sir John Blount, with many county gentlemen in their retinues. In the Wars of the Roses, owing to the large estates of the Duchy within it, Staffordshire was mainly Lancastrian—a fact still shown by the large number of public-houses in the county which show the

Lancastrian badges of the Swan and the White Hart. The second battle of the war, Blore Heath (1459), in which the Lancastrian leader, Lord Audley (a Staffordshire man) was slain, was fought on Staffordshire ground. In 1485 Henry VII., after landing at Milford Haven, marched through the county, by way of Stafford, Lichfield, and Tamworth, to Bosworth Field. Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers, died fighting for Richard at Bosworth.

During Mary's reign, Protestants in the county suffered extremely under Ralph Bane, the Bishop of Lichfield, and Anthony Draycott, his Chancellor. The persecution of the Roman Catholics under Elizabeth was, however, no less severe. The great majority of the population, especially the representatives of the old families, clung obstinately to the unreformed faith, among the specially notable recusants being the Pagets of Beaudesert, the Giffards of Chillington, the Draycotts of Paynesley, the Erdeswicks of Sandon, the Wolseleys of Wolseley, and the Comberfords of Comberford. At least three priests were executed, Father Sutton and Father Southam outside Stafford gaol, and one William Deeg of Burton-on-Trent in secret in the house of a magistrate. The heads of Sutton and Southam were stuck above the gates of the town, and their bodies were refused the rites of the Church and had to be buried in the Friary. A considerable number of other unfortunates, both men and women, perished of fever in Stafford gaol.

For Mary Queen of Scots Staffordshire provided three prisons. She was at Tutbury three times in the early years of her captivity, and again in 1585, and in the last months of her life was taken to Chartley and Tixall. The last stand of the Gunpowder Plot con-

spirators (1605) was made at Holbeach House, Himley.

In the Civil War, Staffordshire as a whole inclined slightly to the side of the Parliament. It is reckoned that of the chief landowners, forty were for the Parliament and twenty-eight for the King, while twenty-seven did their best to remain neutral. The Roman Catholics were active in a greater or less measure for the Royalist cause. A history of the war in Staffordshire would be little more than an account of the successive surrenders of the strongholds garrisoned by the Royalists. Occasionally the posts captured were occupied by Parliamentary forces, but more often they were dismantled. No pitched battle took place on Staffordshire ground; the nearest approaches to it were the two early sieges of Lichfield Close, and the action at Hopton Heath, near Stafford, in March 1643, in which Sir John Gell and Sir William Brereton defeated a Royalist force under the Earl of Northampton and slew the latter on the field. The last places in the county held for the King were Tutbury Castle, which fell 20th April 1646, Dudley Castle, whose fall followed in May, and Lichfield Close, which surrendered 10th July. In Staffordshire was played the final scene of the second Civil War; for it was at Uttoxeter that the incapable Duke of Hamilton, with the wreck of his Scottish army, surrendered to General Lambert in August 1648. Three years later some of the early stages of Charles II.'s famous flight after the battle of Worcester took place in the county (for details see under Bushbury). The Staffordshire Roman Catholics were again cruelly persecuted at the time of the so-called discovery of the "Popish Plot" in 1679 (see under Tixall).

At the time of the attempt of the Old Pretender

ae county town at least was seriously infected with acobitism, and in July 1715 a riotous mob, with the onnivance of the rector and the magistrates, maltreated issenters and did much damage to the Presbyterian eeting-house. But thirty years later, when Charles dward marched across the Moorlands in the last ages of his invasion of England, and then back again the first stages of his retreat, Staffordshire regarded is wild Highlanders with the utmost detestation, and is doubtful if he obtained a single willing recruit in ae county. To the Duke of Cumberland, on the other and, the country gentlemen and farmers willingly rought their horses.

Staffordshire's most notable contributions to subsequent English history have perhaps been the actions two famous Parliamentary representatives: Richard rinsley Sheridan, M.P. for Stafford, 1780-1806, ad Sir Robert Peel, M.P. for Tamworth from 1830 ll his death in 1850.

IX. Antiquities

1. *Prehistoric.* Staffordshire possesses only two egalithic monuments, the one called the Bridestones near Biddulph), which was probably a burial-place, nd the other called the Devil's Ring and Finger near Mucklestone), which was perhaps connected ith some primitive rite.

Of hill forts, there are seven within the county, but wo of these are much obliterated. These are Bunbury ort, near Alton, and Castle Old Fort, near Upper tonnall. The remaining five are still impressive, and ell worth visiting. They are: Byrth Hill, near Maer; Bury Bank, near Stone; Bury Ring, near

Haughton; Castle Ring, in Beaudesert Park; and the fort on Kinver Edge. They are all in strong positions, but of such large size that they could only have been held by large garrisons.

2. *Roman.* The Roman roads and stations have already been alluded to.

3. *Anglo-Saxon.* To the best of my belief, no portion of the structure of any existing Staffordshire church dates from before the Conquest, though St Bertelin's chapel at Stafford remained until 1800, and Saxon work at Edingale was destroyed as lately as 1882. Eight churches, however, possess, in either a complete or fragmentary state, one or more pre-Norman crosses. These are Alstonfield, Chebsey, Checkley, Eccleshall, Ilam, Leek, Rolleston, and Stoke-on-Trent. The crosses vary considerably in form, the shafts being sometimes circular and sometimes rectangular, and the designs of the heads (so far as they remain) also differ, but they all bear the well-known "plait-work" decorations, some having also figure subjects. Their spirit is certainly Celtic, and it seems likely that the earliest examples were the work of artists introduced by the Northumbrian missionaries. In the present state of knowledge it is impossible to fix with certainty the date of any particular example. Besides the crosses, there are at Enville two Saxon sculptures of exceptional interest.

4. *Ecclesiastical Architecture. Norman Period.* What was the number of churches in the county at the time of the Conquest it is impossible to say, as the Domesday Book for the county in most cases passes them by in silence, but the surviving remains are sufficient to prove that the Norman priests and manorial lords within a hundred years of their coming had built a new church in practically every village in the county, so

that it is hardly too much to say that there were as many churches in Staffordshire in the year 1200 as there were in 1800.

These Norman buildings have, naturally, suffered much alteration in the course of more than seven centuries, but there are three Staffordshire churches which possess very considerable portions of their grand Norman predecessors. These are the churches of Gnosall, Stafford (St Chad's), and the Priory church at Tutbury. There are also fine, though less considerable, remains at Alstonfield, Alton, Bobbington, Chebsey, Checkley, Enville, Gayton, King's Bromley, Longdon, Mayfield, Pattingham, Seighford, Stowe-by-Chartley, Stretton, Swynnerton, and Waterfall. Of the so-called "Transitional" Period not much work remains, the most interesting example being the tower at Church Eaton. There are Norman doorways with carved tympanums at Ipstones, Kingswinford, and Tutbury, and Norman fonts in many churches, the best being at Armitage, Bradeley, Checkley, Enville, Ilam, Pipe Ridware, and Stafford (both St Mary's and St Chad's). Armitage and Wolverhampton possess Norman churchyard crosses of unusual and interesting types. Early incised coffin lids of stone are very numerous. They usually bear a cross (often of elaborate design), and often, in addition, some symbol of the dead man's calling—*e.g.* a sword for a warrior, a chalice for a priest, or a pair of compasses for a builder. They mostly belong to the 12th and 13th centuries, though a few may be later.

Early English Period.—The finest work of this period is that in the choir, transepts (restored), and Chapter House of Lichfield Cathedral. The ruins of Croxden Abbey show what superb buildings in this style fell there before the creatures of Henry VIII. and

Thomas Cromwell. The chapel at Coppenhall is a wonderfully perfect miniature, and there is much good work of the time (including a fine tower) at Weston-on-Trent. The chancels of Brewood and Pattingham are noteworthy, and there are interesting remains of various kinds at Bradeley, Clifton Campville, Eccleshall, Lichfield (St Chad's), Madeley, Newcastle, Stafford (St Mary's), and Tettenhall.

Decorated Period.—The county is richer in work of the late 13th and early 14th centuries than in that of any other time. In the Cathedral both the exquisite nave and the famous Lady Chapel belong to this period, and are classic examples of the work which it accomplished. The noble church at Clifton Campville is almost wholly in this style, and the chancel at Checkley and the nave and chancel at Norbury are very beautiful, both in design and detail. The towers and spires at Rolleston and Uttoxeter, and the towers of Mucklestone and Rugeley, are of this period, and there is other interesting work at Blymhill, Bushbury, Cheddleton, Enville, Hanbury, Leek, Longdon, Hamstall Ridware, Mayfield, Sandon, Stafford (St Mary's), Tamworth, and Tettenhall.

Perpendicular Period.—The most nearly complete churches of the 15th cent. are the collegiate churches of Penkridge and Wolverhampton. Other churches which have good work of the time are Alrewas, Gnosall, Haughton, King's Bromley, Kingsley, Kinver, Lichfield (St Michael's), Madeley, Ranton Priory, Mavesyn Ridware, Sandon, Seighford, Shareshill, and Walsall. In accordance with the custom which prevailed everywhere, most Staffordshire churches were much altered at this time by the insertion of large new windows, the addition of clerestories, and the substitution of flat roofs for the earlier high-pitched ones.

Church work of the 16th cent. is unusually abundant in the county. The church at Blore is mainly of the early years of the century, the tower at Mayfield is dated 1515, while the church of Barton-under-Needwood is an excellent example of the best work of the reign of Henry VIII.; and the churches of Cheddleton, Ellastone, Horton, and Wichnor have interesting work of the reign of Elizabeth.

Even as late as the middle of the 17th cent. genuine Gothic building was executed in Staffordshire, though until a few years ago it was customary to assume that the taint of classicalism is evident in all church work done later than the reign of Henry VIII. The nave at Blurton and the church at Broughton, both built during the reign of Charles I., show how reluctantly country church-builders abandoned the tradition of their forefathers.

It is probable that several Staffordshire churches were originally constructed of timber, and internal timbers still remain at Betley and Rushton Spencer, while some external half-timbered work survives at Harlaston and Whitmore.

A few interesting chancel *screens* remain. Those at Blithfield, Madeley, and Wolverhampton are of the 15th cent.; screens at Blore, Clifton Campville, Hamstall Ridware, and Swynnerton are of the 16th; and Clifton Campville and Hamstall Ridware have also screens of the 17th cent. There are ancient *stalls* at Alrewas, Blore, Checkley, Enville, Fairwell, and Wolverhampton, and ancient *benches* at Blithfield and Blore. Alstonfield, Caverswall, Mayfield, and Sandon have beautifully carved pews of the 17th cent., and many churches have fine pulpits of the same period. The best is perhaps that at Wednesbury (1611); that at Weston-under-Lizard is a good late example

(1702). The 15th cent. stone pulpit at Wolverhampton is as beautiful as it is rare.

The finest ancient glass in the county is the imported Flemish glass in the windows of the Lady Chapel of Lichfield Cathedral; next in importance to this comes the glass at Checkley. Other interesting glass is at Barton-under-Needwood, Blithfield, Blore, Bramshall, Broughton, and Hamstall Ridware; there are fragments in the windows of many other churches.

Brasses. — Staffordshire possesses a considerable number of these artistic memorials. The earliest are those at Norbury, Clifton Campville, and Audley (14th cent.); Abbot's Bromley, Blore, Hanbury, Standon, and Okeover (palimpsest) (15th cent.); Horton, Kinver, Leek, Madeley, Rugeley, Stoweby-Chartley, and Trentham (16th cent.); Biddulph (dated 1602); Elford (dated 1621); Audley and Stone also have 17th cent. brasses.

Effigies of stone and alabaster are very numerous. There are early effigies at Aldridge, Audley, Bobbington, Checkley, Draycott, Enville, Gayton, Hanbury, Lichfield Cathedral, Norbury, Mavesyn Ridware, Tamworth, and Weston-under-Lizard. One or more specimens of the later table-tombs with alabaster effigies are to be found in many of the ancient churches in the county; the finest collections being those at Brewood, Draycott, Elford, Penkridge, and Tamworth.

Incised effigies on alabaster slabs are fairly common, but the floor-slabs, owing to the softness of the material, are generally very much worn away. There is a remarkable collection of these in the church of Croxall. The slabs which formed the tops of table-tombs have fared much better; the churches of Blithfield (3), Penkridge (3), and Sandon (4) have each several excellent specimens.

5. *Religious Houses.*—The number of these in the county was, having regard to the comparative sparseness of its population in medieval times, extremely large. The earliest institutions of the kind were the nunneries founded by King Ethelred, at Hanbury and Trentham, but these were destroyed by the Danes, and were succeeded by no other houses before the Conquest, except St Editha's Nunnery, Tamworth, Burton, and Lapley. As soon as the county became settled under the Norman dominion, however, colonies of monks, nuns, and friars sprang up everywhere. The Benedictines possessed the great abbey at Burton, priories at Canwell, Lapley, Sandwell, and Tutbury, and nunneries at Blithbury, Brewood, and Fairwell. The Cistercians were supreme in North Staffordshire, with their three rich abbeys at Croxden, Dieu-la-Cresse, and Hulton.[1] The Augustinians had an abbey at Rocester, and priories at Calwich, Ranton, Stone, Trentham, and St Thomas (Baswich). The Knights Templars, and after their suppression the Knights Hospitallers, had a preceptory at Keele, and the Dominican (Black) Friars had a house at Newcastle, the Austin (White) Friars a house at Stafford, and the Franciscan (Grey) Friars houses at Lichfield and Stafford. There were also nine medieval hospitals in the county, three at Lichfield, three at Stafford, and others at Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth, and Wolverhampton.

Of all these the present remains are slight in the extreme. The priory churches of Lapley and Tutbury alone remain in use as parish churches; the tower of Ranton Priory church survives, and there are some beautiful ruins of the buildings of Croxden Abbey. In every other case the destruction has been so remorselessly complete that at the most only a few meagre fragments tell of what has been.

Of the few Royal Free Chapels, or Collegiate

[1] For Hulton see under Milton.

Churches, of England, Staffordshire possessed no fewer than six, viz. Gnosall, Penkridge, Stafford (St Mary's), Tamworth, Tettenhall, and Wolverhampton. They were each administered by a dean and prebendaries, and were free from episcopal jurisdiction—a right which, not unnaturally, gave frequent cause for dissension. The last of the six to retain any portion of its ancient privileges was Wolverhampton, which possessed a dean until as recently as 1840.

6. *Feudal and Domestic.*—Staffordshire, in medieval times, possessed ten castles, viz. Alton, Caverswall, Chartley, Dudley, Eccleshall, Heleigh, Newcastle, Stafford, Tamworth, and Tutbury; but at only six of these, viz. Alton, Chartley, Dudley, Eccleshall, Tamworth, and Tutbury, do any remains of medieval buildings now exist, and in every case the ruins, though interesting, are naturally fragmentary.

In manor-houses of the 16th and 17th centuries the county is not rich, though it possesses specimens of most kinds. Many squires of the 18th and early 19th centuries, during the heyday of agricultural prosperity, spent very large sums to ill purpose in pulling down the mansions of their forefathers, and erecting in their place barrack-like buildings of appalling ugliness. In half-timber work, however, two fine houses remain—the Halls of Haselour and Seighford: and there are good houses on a less ambitious scale at Cheadle, Stafford, and West Bromwich. In stone, there are the Elizabethan gatehouse at Tixall, and the remarkably handsome Jacobean houses of Caverswall Castle and Wootton Lodge,[1] and the Jacobean portions of Tamworth Castle, as well as ruins at Biddulph, Dudley, Throwley, and Tutbury. There are also many beautiful old stone farm-houses in the Moorland district (see

[1] For Wootton Lodge see under Ellastone.

especially under Cheadle, Horton, and Ipstones). Of houses which were wholly or partially of brick, Beaudesert Hall, Ingestre Hall (reconstructed), Pillaton Hall, Whittington Hall, and Little Wyrley Grove are still inhabited, and there are ruins at Hamstall Ridware.

7. The *place-names* of Staffordshire offer an interesting field for study, in which much work remains to be done, though Mr W. H. Duignan, in his "Notes on Staffordshire Place-Names" (Frowde, 1902), has laid a good foundation. The oldest names, as one would expect, are those of the rivers and the hills, almost all of which are Goidelic or Brythonic. A small proportion of the names of towns, villages, and farms (generally those standing in high positions) also seem to be Celtic. Roman names have, as usual, mostly vanished, though traces of the Roman occupation of the county remain in the names applied by the English to the Roman roads and stations (*e.g.* Watling Street, Icknield Street, Chesterfield, Chesterton, Rocester, and Wall). It is very doubtful whether Staffordshire contains a single name of Norse origin; the Norsemen seem to have had no permanent settlement in this part of England west of Derby, and consequently the vast majority of Staffordshire place-names are purely English. In the "Description of Places" I have attempted to explain only those names whose origin seems to have been reasonably certainly ascertained, nor have I referred to the meaning of those which are apparently derived from proper names, since these seem to me of little interest compared to those which reflect our forefathers' impressions of the wilderness and their efforts to subdue it. The following list (in the preparation

of which I have derived much aid from Mr Duignan's book) shows the meanings of the words which will be found to occur frequently in Staffordshire names :—

Bury or borough = *burh*, a place protected by a rampart of earth.
Birch = *bryce*, a place newly cleared of trees.
Bourne = *burn*, a stream.
Cote or cot = *cot*, a house.
Don = *dun*, a hill.
Field = *feld*, open (*not* enclosed) country.
Ford = *ford*, a ford.
Gate = *yeat*, a road.
Grange = *grange* (Middle English), the outlying farm of an abbey.
Greave = *greve* (Middle English), a grove or wood.
Hale or hall = *healh*, a pasture.
Ham = *ham*, a house.
Hay = *hege*, a hedge, and so enclosed land (particularly a division of a forest).
Hill = *hyll*, a hill.
Hoar, har, or war = *har*, boundary (adjective).
Hope or hop = *hop*, a valley or hollow.
Land or lawn = *launde* (Middle English), a forest glade.
Ley, leigh, or lea = *leah*, pasture-land.
Low = *hlaw*, a hill (sometimes a barrow)
More or moor = *mor*, a moor.
Rake or raike = *rake*, a path for sheep or cattle.
Ton or tun = *tun*, an enclosure, and so a homestead.
Wall = (1) *weall*, a rampart of earth or stones.

Wall	(2) *wiell*, a well or spring.
Was	= *waesc*, a swamp.
Wich or wick	= (1) *wic*, a dwelling.
	(2) *wich*, a salt spring.
Worth	= *worth*, a farm.

X. Staffordshire Worthies

The sense in which I have applied the term "Staffordshire Worthies" perhaps needs a preliminary word of explanation. I have considered as rightfully belonging to Staffordshire any man or woman who came of Staffordshire stock on at least one side, and was either born in the county or brought up within it. This definition, following Dr Johnson's principle that a man born in a stable does not thereby become a horse, excludes a celebrity such as Cardinal Pole (born at Stourton Castle, Staffordshire), but it includes such a one as Thomas Guy (born in Southwark). The word "Worthy" have not employed in a literal sense, for I have included three indubitable "Unworthies," whose rascalities seemed to give them a claim to notice too great to be overlooked.

Thus constituted, my list (selected with considerable difficulty out of many names) consists of twenty-six persons. Only two of them, it will be found, were born earlier than the 16th cent.; in feudal times there were few men of eminence, except the members of noble families, who as a rule owned lands and residences in many counties, and cannot be said to belong to any one particularly. Analysed in point of time, the Staffordshire Worthies were born: one in the 14th cent., one in the 15th, six in the 16th, ten in the 17th, six in the 18th,

and two in the 19th. The barrenness of the 19th cent. is remarkable, and may perhaps be attributed to the absorption in the county's increased industries of nearly all her greater minds.

It is in the realm of letters that the county's distinction has been greatest. To English literature she has contributed the great names of Izaak Walton and Samuel Johnson, and a cluster of smaller ones—those of Richard Barnfield, Charles Cotton, William Somerville, Elijah Fenton, and Mrs Craik. In art her most distinguished names are those of Peter de Wint and G. H. Mason, and Josiah Wedgwood, the great pioneer-artist of one of her chief industries. Thomas Fuller, in his account of Staffordshire, long ago noticed the passion of her sons for the sea. "Englishmen," he observes, "though born and bred in inland places, where neither their infancy nor childhood ever beheld ship or boat, yet have a great inclination and aptness to sea-service." But it is since his time that Staffordshire seamen have most distinguished themselves. Of other counties, only Devonshire, perhaps, can claim to be the mother of two greater admirals than Lord Anson and the Earl of St Vincent. The soldiers in this list are Sir James de Audley, Sir Nicholas Bagnal, and Thomas Harrison, and it may be added that the present Lord Wolseley comes of a very ancient Staffordshire family. The muster is made up by an ecclesiastic (Gilbert Sheldon), the founder of the Primitive Methodists (Hugh Bourne), a statesman (John de Sutton de Dudley), a lawyer (the first Earl of Macclesfield), two scientists (Thomas Allen and Thomas Wedgwood), a philanthropist (Thomas Guy), an antiquary (Elias Ashmole), and three scoundrels (Gilbert Giffard, William Wood, and Jonathan Wild).

Allen, Thomas (1542-1632), mathemathician, was born at Uttoxeter. He was of a good Staffordshire family, being a descendant, six generations removed, of one Henry Allen, Lord of the Manor of Bucknall. He took his degree at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1563, and was chosen a fellow of the same college in 1565, but he soon resigned the position, preferring to pursue his studies in retirement in his own way, and lived at Gloucester Hall (now Worcester College), Oxford, from 1570 for the remainder of his life. His fame as a mathematician, philosopher, and antiquary procured him many invitations to the houses of noblemen who encouraged learning, and he corresponded with all the greatest scientists of his day. The great number of instruments and glasses in his room gained him the common repute of being a magician, and his servant would amaze visitors by telling them he sometimes "met the spirits coming up the stairs like bees." Allen was buried in the chapel of Trinity College, and his portrait still hangs in the president's lodge there.

Anson, George, Lord Anson (1697-1762), admiral, was the second son of William Anson, of Shugborough, and was born there. He entered the navy at fourteen, became a captain in 1724, and for the next ten years was mainly engaged in operations against the Spaniards off the coast of Carolina. In 1740 he was appointed Commodore of a squadron of six ships despatched to the Pacific, but he reached Juan Fernandez with only three of them, and two-thirds of the crews of those had perished through scurvy. Still he did considerable damage to the Spanish commerce, and took the town of Paita in Peru. After shipping all his remaining men into his own vessel, the "Centurion," he performed his most famous achievement by capturing the fabulously rich Spanish galleon which sailed yearly

from Manila to Acapulco, though he had but 201 men against the Spaniards' 558. This was in 1743; he returned home round the Cape the next year and was made rear-admiral. In 1746 he was given the command of the Channel fleet, and in May of the next year overwhelmed a French fleet off Cape Finisterre and captured a valuable portion of her convoy. He was rewarded by being created Baron Anson of Soberton in Hampshire. He made a wealthy match in 1748 by marrying Lady Elizabeth Yorke, daughter of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. In 1751 he became First Lord of the Admiralty, in which capacity he introduced many useful reforms into the administration, though he made an unfortunate mistake of judgment in appointing Admiral Byng to the command of the Mediterranean fleet. He died suddenly and was buried in the family vault at Colwich. He left no issue, so that the title died with him.

Ashmole, Elias (1617-1692), antiquary, was born at Lichfield. His father was a saddler, but of good family. He was educated at Lichfield Grammar School, and was a chorister in the cathedral. He became a solicitor in 1638, and in the same year married Eleanor Mainwaring, of Smallwood in Cheshire, who died in 1641. He took the Royalist side in the war, and acted as commissioner of excise at Lichfield and Worcester. In 1649 he improved his fortunes by marrying one Lady Mainwaring, a lady twenty years older than himself and thrice widowed, but, as might be expected, there were not infrequent jars. His studies at this time were mainly in astrology and alchemy, but he made excursions also into Hebrew, engraving and heraldry. At the Restoration he was appointed Windsor herald, and was given several other lucrative posts. He gained the collection of curiosities by which his name is best remembered by bequest from his friend Tradescant.

In 1666 he presented his native city with the chased silver bowl and cover which it still cherishes under the name of the Ashmolean Cup. In 1668 his second wife died, and, undaunted by his experience, he married in the same year the daughter of his friend Sir Wm. Dugdale. In 1672 he published his chief work, "The Institutions, Laws, and Ceremonies of the Order of the Garter," an exhaustive treatise. In 1677 he offered Tradescant's collections, with his own additions, to the University of Oxford, on condition that the authorities should provide a building to house them. The offer was accepted, and the collections were removed to Oxford in 1683. By his will he bequeathed to the University also his valuable library. He was buried in South Lambeth church. His diary (a most quaint work) was published in 1717.

Audley, Sir James de (1322?-1369), warrior, was the second son of Sir James d'Audley of Stretton-Audley.[1] He was in 1344 made one of the original knights of the Order of the Garter. He took part in the naval battle with the Spaniards off Sluys in 1350, and at the time of the renewal of the war with France in 1354 he and his brother Sir Peter were in personal attendance on the Black Prince. He greatly distinguished himself by his prowess, particularly in the assault on Chastiel Saacra, and at the battle of Poitiers (1356), where he and his four esquires, by the Prince's permission, posted themselves in the van of the English army. Sir James engaged with and wounded Lord Arnold d'Andreghen, Marshal of France, and, according to Froissart, "never stopped to make any prisoners that day, but was the whole time employed in fighting and following the enemy." Finally he sank exhausted and severely

[1] His father owned lands at Audley, Maer, and Knutton, residing at Audley, and was Fermor or Bailiff of the Hundred of Totmonslow.

wounded, and was carried out of the fray by his esquires. The same night the Black Prince granted him, in recognition of his bravery, an annuity of 500 marks, which Sir James at once made over to his four esquires. But the Prince, not to be baulked by generosity, granted him a further pension of 600 marks. In 1359 he was one of the principal commanders in a fresh expedition to France, in 1362 was appointed governor of Aquitaine, and in 1369 great seneschal of Poitou. He died in the same year, and was buried at Poitiers, the Prince attending his funeral.

Bagnal, Sir Nicholas (1510-1590), Marshal of the army in Ireland, was second son of John Bagnal, five times mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, by trade a tailor. Nicholas, like his elder brother Ralph, was a favourite courtier of Henry VIII. He went to Ireland in 1539, and served there five years with credit, though he had once to obtain the King's pardon for committing murder. In 1545 he took part in the campaign in France, and in 1547 was appointed by Edward VI. Marshal of the army in Ireland. In the following year he took part in Sir Edward Bellingham's defeat of the Irish who had invaded Kildare under Cahir O'Connell. He was knighted in 1551, and in the next year obtained grants of the valuable lands of two Newry abbeys. He lost his office on Mary's accession, but in January 1559 he was elected to Elizabeth's first parliament as member for Stoke-on-Trent. He did not, however, regain his post of Marshal until 1565. He did good service against the Irish in Ulster, and had the chief share in establishing Newry as an English colony. He left a large family, of whom his son Henry succeeded him as Marshal, and his daughter Mabel eloped with and married Hugh O'Neill, the famous Earl of Tyrone.

Barnfield, Richard (1574-1627) was the eldest child of Richard Barnfield of Norbury Manor, and was baptized in Norbury Church. His mother, Maria, daughter of the ancient Staffordshire house of Skrymsher, died when he was six years old, and he was brought up by her sister, Elizabeth, for whom he afterwards wrote an epitaph. At the age of 17 he took his B.A. degree at Brasenose College, Oxford, and at 20 published two volumes of poems, the first called "The Affectionate Shepherd," and the second "Cynthia, with certain Sonnets, and the Legend of Cassandra." This he followed in 1598 with a volume consisting of four thin pamphlets of verse bound together: "The Encomion of Lady Pecunia," "The Complaint of Poetry," "Conscience and Covetousness," and "Poems in Divers Humours." Among the latter are found the two poems (the sonnet, "If Music and Sweet Poetry Agree," and the ode, "As it Fell Upon a Day"), which reappeared in 1599 in the pirated collection of pieces, attributed to Shakespeare, but really by many authors, called "The Passionate Pilgrim." These two poems were until recently printed as Shakespeare's in almost every edition of his works, and would probably be accepted as his to-day if Barnfield's volume had not come to light. "As it Fell" still appears in most modern anthologies, but the rest of Barnfield's poetry gets small attention, though "The Affectionate Shepherd" has some pretty descriptions of gardens and country pursuits. His works have been reprinted entire in Mr A. H. Bullen's "Some Longer Elizabethan Poems" (Constable, 1903). After his youthful burst of song Barnfield published no more, but settled down to the life of a prosperous country squire at Darlaston, near Stone. He died at the

age of 52, and was buried in the Priory Church of St Michael's, Stone. His tomb, if he had any, disappeared at the destruction of the church about 1750.

Bourne, Hugh (1772-1852), founder of the Primitive Methodists, was born at Fordhays Farm, Stoke-on-Trent. He worked as a carpenter and builder nearly all his life. In 1799 he joined the Wesleyan Methodists, soon after became a local preacher, and in 1802 built a chapel at Harriseahead, chiefly at his own expense. In imitation of the revivalist camp meetings held in America, Bourne, with his brother James, William Clowes, and others, held a camp meeting on Mow Cop on Sunday, 31st May 1807. The Wesleyan Methodist conference condemned the practice of holding camp meetings, and on Bourne continuing to hold them he was, in 1808, expelled from the Society. It was not, however, until 1810 that the first class of his new community was held at Standley (near Norton). Bourne and his brother built the first Primitive Methodist chapel at Tunstall in 1811, and the name of the Society was finally adopted in the following year. Bourne travelled much to gain converts, and in 1844-6 toured in the United States, attracting large congregations. He died at Bemersley (near Norton) at the age of 80, having lived to see Primitive Methodism with 5300 chapels and 110,000 enrolled members.

His ally, William Clowes (1780-1851), was also a Staffordshire man, having been born at Burslem. He won fame in his youth as a dancer, but was converted at the age of 25, and became one of the best known of the pioneer Primitive Methodist preachers.

Cotton, Charles (1630-1687) was born at Beresford Hall, being the only child of the Charles Cotton who was a friend of many literary men, and among

others, of Izaak Walton. His father gained the Beresford estate through his marriage with Olive Stanhope, daughter of Sir John Stanhope of Elvaston, Derbyshire, who had married the heiress of the Beresfords. The younger Cotton had a good education, and in early manhood travelled on the Continent. He soon made literary friends, and for some time supported the poet Lovelace. In 1656 he married his cousin Isabella, the sister of the famous Colonel Hutchinson. His father, who had greatly injured his estates by lawsuits, died in 1658, and Cotton made Beresford Hall his home for the rest of his life.

He issued his first work, a burlesque poem called "Scarronides, or the First Book of Virgil Travestie," in 1664. In 1665 his monetary straits compelled him to obtain an act of parliament to sell part of his settled estates. After publishing several translations, he issued his "Planters' Manual," a treatise on the care of fruit trees, in 1675. He had lost his first wife about 1670, and about 1674 married the widow of the second Earl of Ardglass, who had a large fortune of her own, but does not seem to have assisted her husband, who remained in constant difficulties. In 1674 he built the famous fishing-house, and in 1676 appeared his Second Part of the "Compleat Angler," which he had written in ten days. His devotion to Izaak Walton was most intense, and he delighted to call him his "father." In 1681 he published a poem on "The Wonders of the Peak," and in 1685 his translation of Montaigne's Essays, an acknowledged English masterpiece. He died of a fever in February 1687, while on a visit to London, and was buried in St James's, Piccadilly, leaving one son (Beresford) and four daughters. An unauthorized collection of his poems was published in 1689. The best are his

ode on "Winter," and the famous stanzas called "The Retirement." Cotton was a man with two very distinct sides to his character. On the one hand he was as a writer too often coarse, and as a man given to drink and roystering; but on the other he was the author of poetry which shows a real appreciation of nature, and a man of apparently genuine piety.

Craik, Mrs Dinah Maria (1826-1887), authoress, was born at Longfield Cottage, Hartshill. The house has unfortunately been demolished. Her father, Thomas Mulock, was at the time minister of a small congregation which met at Stoke-on-Trent. She went to London at the age of about twenty, and soon began writing stories for the young. Her first three-volume novel, "The Ogilvies," was published in 1849, and was followed the next year by "Olive." Her nobility of character and goodness of heart soon brought her many friends. In 1857 appeared the work by which she is principally remembered: "John Halifax, Gentleman." In 1864 she married G. L. Craik, a partner in the house of Macmillan & Co., and soon afterwards went to live at Shortlands, near Bromley, Kent, where she continued till her death. She had no children. Her works show great imaginative power, and are invariably pure, womanly, and idealistic —so much so that a critic has complained that her heroines get too much into the way of living only for others. Her best children's books are "Alice Learmont" (1852) and "The Little Lame Prince" (1874).

Dudley, John de Sutton de, Baron Dudley (1401?-1487) was the first Baron Dudley of the Sutton family. He served in France under Henry V., and bore the Royal Standard at the King's funeral in 1422. In 1428 he was appointed Viceroy of Ireland. He made a savage attack on the O'Byrnes, who were

threatening the borders of the Irish Pale, but resigned office the next year. He was Ambassador to the Duke of Brittany in 1447, and to the Duke of Burgundy in 1449, and in 1451 was created K.G. He fought vigorously at first on the King's side in the Wars of the Roses, and was taken prisoner at the Battle of St Albans (1455), and sent to the Tower. Regaining his liberty, he was wounded at Blore Heath in 1459. On Edward IV.'s accession, however, he made his peace with the new King, and was received with considerable favour, being appointed, at the age of seventy-six, Ambassador to negotiate a continuance of the treaty with France. He lived into the reign of Henry VII., dying on 30th September 1487. He was buried in St James' Priory, Dudley.

Fenton, Elijah (1683-1730), versifier, was born at Shelton Hall. He was the eleventh child of John Fenton, an attorney of good family and in easy circumstances. He went to Newcastle Grammar School, and graduated at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1704. He was intended for the Church, but through conscientious scruples did not take orders. After acting as secretary to the Earl of Orrery, he obtained the headmastership of Sevenoaks Grammar School, but gave up the post to become tutor to Orrery's only son. He published a volume of poems in 1707, and, becoming a friend of Pope, for a fee of £300 translated for him the first, fourth, nineteenth and twentieth books of his version of the "Odyssey." His tragedy of "Mariamne" was staged with success in 1723. He spent his later years as tutor and steward in the household of a Lady Trumbull at Easthampstead in Berkshire. In 1729 he published an annotated edition of Waller. All accounts agree upon the excellency of his character, but the latter

part of Johnson's description of him as "an excellent versifier and a good poet" goes too far.

Giffard, Gilbert (1561-1590) is the best remembered, though the least reputable, member of the ancient Roman Catholic family of Giffard of Chillington, and a traitor to the faith of this house. He was educated at Douay College and at the English College at Rome, where, however, his masters complained of his deceitful character, and expelled him. In January 1586 he arrived at Queen Mary's prison at Chartley, ostensibly as a faithful adherent of hers, but actually as a spy on behalf of Walsingham and the English Government. He soon gained Mary's confidence, and pretended that he had engaged a Roman Catholic brewer in the village to take Mary's letters in his barrels to a neighbouring Roman Catholic gentleman, by whom they would be forwarded to the French Ambassador in London. By such devices he obtained both Mary's letters and those of the ambassador to her, and conveyed copies of all to Walsingham. He also ingratiated himself with Anthony Babington, Peter Ballard, and their fellow-conspirators, and betrayed them all to Walsingham, as he did Queen Mary's part in the affair, showing Walsingham letters which proves her knowledge and approval of Babington's deigns.

It has been suggested that these letters, which brought the Queen to the scaffold, were fabricated by Giffard himself, and even that he originated the whole conspiracy, but that he reached this depth of crime cannot be proved. Giffard's villainy became known to the Roman Catholic party, and he was compelled to fly to Paris, where he was arrested in December 1588 on a charge, brought against him by Sir Charles Arundel, of writing against the Jesuits, and he died in prison in November 1590.

Guy, Thomas (1645-1724), philanthropist, was born in Southwark, but when he was aged only five his father died, and his mother removed to Tamworth, her native place. Guy was there educated, and at the age of fifteen was apprenticed to a London bookseller, and in 1668 set up for himself in Cornhill. Before 1679 he had become printer to Oxford University, and greatly prospered in business. In 1678 he founded almshouses at Tamworth, sat as Member of Parliament for that place from 1695 to 1707, and built the present Town Hall in 1701. In 1704 he became a governor of St Thomas's Hospital, and three years later built three new wards. Having made a vast fortune, partly through a judicious investment in the original South Sea stock, he spent a portion of it in erecting the new hospital which bears his name, and left the residue of his estate (more than £200,000) for its endowment. His charities in other directions were very large, and for the most part only came to light after his death.

Harrison, Thomas (1606-1660), parliamentarian, was the son of a farmer living at or near Newcastle-under-Lyme. He was bred for the law, but on the outbreak of war in 1642 enlisted in Essex's life-guard. He became a major in Fleetwood's regiment of horse in 1644, and took part in the battles of Marston Moor, Naseby, and Langport, the captures of Winchester and Basing, and the siege of Oxford. In 1646 he was elected member for Wendover, but sided with the army against the parliament, and Fairfax gave him the command of a regiment of horse. During the second civil war he served under Lambert, and was wounded in a daring exploit. He escorted the king from Hurst Castle to London, and was present at nearly every meeting of Charles's

judges. He had previously denounced him as a "man of blood," and was one of the signatories to the death-warrant. During Cromwell's absence in Ireland, Harrison was given the supreme military command in England, with the title of major-general. He took a prominent part in the battle of Worcester, and in the pursuit of the fugitives. In 1653 he assisted in Cromwell's forcible dissolution of the "Rump" Parliament, was for a time president of the supreme council of thirteen, and was described as "the second in the nation." He refused, however, to recognize Cromwell's "instrument of government," became prominent among the fanatic Anabaptist-Leveller party, and in 1654 was ordered to retire to his house in Staffordshire. He was suspected of engaging in Fifth Monarchy intrigues, and suffered repeated imprisonments at Carisbrooke Castle and in the Tower. At the Restoration he steadfastly refused either to give pledges of loyalty or to fly, and was arrested at his own house in May 1660 as a regicide. He was excepted from the Act of Indemnity, and was hanged at Charing Cross on 13th October. Pepys witnessed his death, and testifies to the cheerfulness with which he died.

Jervis, John, Earl of St Vincent (1735-1823), admiral, second son of Swynfen Jervis and Elizabeth (Parker), was born at the family residence, Meaford Hall, near Stone. He entered the navy at 14, and became a commander at 24, having already seen some fighting. In 1782 he was in the "Foudroyant," and captured off Brest the French ship of war "Pégase," being rewarded with a K.B. The same year he married his cousin, Martha Parker. In 1783 he was returned to Parliament as member for Launceston, and in 1784 for Yarmouth. Three years later he was

appointed a rear-admiral, and in 1794 he commanded a squadron which assisted a land force to capture Martinique and Guadeloupe. The next year he became admiral, and was given the command of the Mediterranean fleet (Nelson being one of his captains), but he was driven through the Straits of Gibraltar by crushing French and Spanish forces. On 14th Feb. 1797 he met the Spanish fleet off Cape St Vincent. He had but fifteen sail against twenty-seven, but in discipline and training his men were vastly superior. His victory was not overwhelming, only four Spanish vessels being captured, but it prevented the junction of the Spaniards with the French northern fleet, and so averted the possibility of an invasion of England. Jervis's reward was a peerage and a pension of £3000 a year. The following years were the years of the sailors' mutiny, which St Vincent's severe measures had a great share in suppressing. During his command of the Channel Fleet in 1800 the harshness of his rule was much resented, but on the whole it had a beneficial effect. In 1801 he became First Lord of the Admiralty, and incurred much hatred by devoting himself to a reform of the gross corruption of the administration; but in this he performed the best work of his life. After again acting as admiral in 1806-7, he retired to Rochetts, in Essex, where he died at the age of 88. In accordance with his will, he was buried at Stone. The earldom lapsed, but his viscounty descended to his nephew.

Johnson, Samuel (1709-1784), is, beyond all dispute, the greatest of the worthies of Staffordshire. His father, Michael Johnson, was a Lichfield bookseller and a man of some learning; his mother, Sarah Ford, was the daughter of a Warwickshire yeoman. The facts of Johnson's life are few, and give little

indication of his greatness. He was educated at Lichfield Grammar School, at Stourbridge, and at Pembroke College, Oxford, but through poverty had to leave Oxford without taking his degree. His father died in 1731, on the verge of bankruptcy. After acting for a time as an usher at Market Bosworth School, Johnson married, in 1735, a widow, one Mrs Porter, twenty years his senior. Her small fortune enabled him to start a school at Edial, near Lichfield, but the venture failed utterly, and in 1737 he and his pupil, David Garrick, both went to London to try their fortunes.

His struggles to earn a living by his pen were prolonged through many years, though his poems, "London" (1738), and "The Vanity of Human Wishes" (1749), obtained some success. His tragedy of "Irene," produced in February 1749, ran only for nine nights, but "The Rambler" (1750-52) had a considerable sale. Johnson suffered the heaviest blow of his life in the death of his wife in March 1752. The "Dictionary," on which he had been working for eight years, appeared in 1755, and at once made him famous, though it did not rescue him from poverty. He published the "Idler" in 1758-60, and wrote "Rasselas" in one week in 1759 to defray the expenses of his mother's last illness. In 1762 he was granted a pension of £300 a year, and was at last free to live as he pleased. In the next year Boswell was introduced to him, and thenceforward made the study of Johnson the main object of his existence. Johnson's remaining works were his edition of Shakespeare (1765), his "Tour to the Hebrides" (1775), and, his most valuable achievement, "The Lives of the Poets" (1779 and 1781). He paid frequent visits to Lichfield and to Dr Taylor at Ashbourne during his

later years. He died on 13th December 1784, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. It is curious that Johnson is still popularly known only as the maker of the "Dictionary." It is, of course, as a man and not as a writer that he stands in the front rank of Englishmen. His force of character, hatred of cant, passion for truth, tenderness of heart, and supreme greatness as a talker, are, thanks to James Boswell, beyond the reach of the tooth of time.

Mason, George Heming (1818-1872), painter, born at Fenton Park, was the eldest son of George Miles Mason by his wife Eliza Heming. His father was a member of the family which manufactured "Mason's Iron-stone china," but abandoned an active part in the business for a life of leisure at Wetley Abbey. Mason was intended for a medical career, but soon gave himself up to art. He and his brother Miles left England for a continental tour in 1843 and settled at Rome in 1845. Soon afterwards their father was, for a time, in serious financial straits, and they were reduced to extreme poverty, picking up a precarious living by painting for English visitors. George, however, soon found influential friends and patrons, among the former being Sir F. Leighton, with whom his friendship was lifelong. He painted much in the Campagna. In 1858 he returned to England, married, and settled at Wetley Abbey, occupying only one corner of the house and leaving most of the rooms deserted. In 1864 he took a house at Hammersmith, but to the last he paid lengthy visits to Wetley to paint the Staffordshire scenes in which he delighted.

He was elected A.R.A. in 1869, and died at Hammersmith, 22nd October 1872, leaving a family of seven children. He has been called "the greatest of the idyllic painters of England."

His pictures exquisitely combine poetry, pathos, and simplicity, and most of the best of them represent the Wetley neighbourhood.

Parker, Thomas (1666-1732), first Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Chancellor, born at Leek, was the younger son of Thomas Parker, an attorney of that town. He was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in 1691, and in the same year married Janet Carrier of Wirksworth, the heiress to a fortune. He soon made a reputation on the Midland Circuit, and in 1705 was returned as Whig member for Derby, which he continued to represent till he was raised to the Bench. As member of a House of Commons Committee, he distinguished himself by his vigorous attack upon Sacheverell and the High Church clergy. He was appointed the same year (1710) Lord Chief-Justice, and after Queen Anne's death became a great favourite with George I. He was created Baron Macclesfield in 1716, Lord Chancellor in 1718, and Earl of Macclesfield in 1721. He was an able judge, but his rough manners made him unpopular with the bar. In 1723 he founded the Grammar School at Leek. In 1725 he had to resign the seals owing to a revelation of various corrupt practices in his court, and the next year he was impeached at the bar of the House of Lords. He was unanimously found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of £30,000, and to be imprisoned in the Tower till the money should be paid. He found the money in six weeks. George I. promised to repay the whole out of the privy purse, but died after finding only £1000. On his fall the Earl retired to Shirburn Castle (Oxfordshire), a residence which he had purchased in 1716, and died there.

Sheldon, Gilbert (1598-1677), Archbishop of Canterbury, born at Stanton, was the youngest son

of Roger Sheldon, a farmer. He was sent to Trinity College, Oxford, at the cost of the Earl of Shrewsbury, his father's landlord. In 1622 he was ordained and elected Fellow of All Souls', and in 1626 its warden. After holding several livings, he became chaplain to Charles I., and as a strong anti-Puritan won the friendship of the leaders of Church and State. During the Civil War he was in constant attendance on the king, and in 1648 was imprisoned at Oxford for some months for refusing to surrender his lodgings to the Parliamentary visitors. On his release he retired to Snelston, Derbyshire, and remained there, or with friends in Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire, until the Restoration. He was from the first highly esteemed by Charles II. In 1660 he was appointed Bishop of London, and in 1663 Archbishop of Canterbury, succeeding Juxon in both cases. He built, at a cost of about £15,000, the Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford (opened 1669). He did not fear to reprove the king for his evil life and to refuse him the sacrament on that account. He remained at Lambeth all through the plague, and collected large sums for the sufferers, and also for the rebuilding of St Paul's after the fire. He is said to have given out of his own pocket no less than £72,000 in all for charity and public causes. He died at Lambeth and was buried at Croydon.

Somerville, William (1675-1742), poet, was eldest son of Robert Somerville of Edstone, Warwickshire, and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charles Wolseley of Wolseley. He was born at his mother's home, where a portrait of him as a boy is still preserved. He was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, and on his father's death in 1705 settled at Edstone, where he spent the rest of his life. He was devoted to sport, and kept at Edstone fox-hounds, otter-hounds, and beagles. He published, between 1725 and the year

of his death, five volumes of poems, but his fame rests chiefly on "The Chase," a blank-verse poem of four books, published in 1735. It has always been a favourite book with sportsmen, even the least literary, and successive editions have been illustrated by such famous artists as the brothers Bewick (1796), Stothard (1800), and Mr Hugh Thomson (1896). Somerville is said to have been improvident in money matters, and to have become addicted to drinking in his later years. He was buried at Wotton-Wawen. Dr Johnson allowed that he *wrote very well for a gentleman.*

Walton, Izaak (1593-1688), was born at Stafford on Aug. 9th, 1593. His birthplace, a small house in Eastgate Street, was most unhappily destroyed only a few years ago. Of his father, Jervis Walton, nothing is known except the fact that he died in 1597. After a few years' schooling, probably at the Stafford Grammar School (then held in St Bertelin's Church), Izaak was apprenticed in London to Thomas Grinsell, an ironmonger. On setting up for himself he took a shop in Fleet Street and afterwards in Chancery Lane, and soon struck up a friendship with John Donne, vicar of the neighbouring church of St Dunstan's, and with other divines. In 1626 he married at Canterbury Rachel Floud, who died in 1640, Walton's seven children by her having all died in infancy. In 1644 he removed from St Dunstan's to live at Clerkenwell, having apparently made sufficient to retire from business. About 1646 he married, secondly, Anne, half-sister of Bishop Ken.

In 1640 he had published his life of Donne, and in 1651 his life of Sir Henry Wotton appeared. In September of that year, after the battle of Worcester, he was probably at Stafford, and as an ardent royalist he was entrusted with Charles II.'s "Lesser

George" jewel, which he safely conveyed to London. He had reached the age of 60 when, in 1653, he published his immortal book "The Compleat Angler; or the Contemplative Man's Recreation," which he dedicated to John Offley of Madeley Manor. Two years later a considerably altered and enlarged edition appeared. After the death in 1662 of his second wife, who had left him two children, Anne and Izaak, he made his home in Bishop Morley's residences at Winchester, Chelsea, and Farnham Castle. In 1665 he published his life of Richard Hooker, and in 1670 that of George Herbert. Throughout his later years he seems to have made fairly frequent visits to Stafford, his farm at Shallowford, and Beresford Hall, the house of his young friend, Charles Cotton. In 1678 his daughter married William Hawkins, a prebendary of Winchester, and Walton thenceforth lived partly at their house. He continued writing to the last, and in 1678 published his life of Robert Sanderson. He was buried in Winchester Cathedral, Bishop Ken writing the inscription for his tomb. He left his farm at Shallowford, which he had bought about 1654, for the benefit of the poor of Stafford. Walton's great book is of little or no value as a practical treatise on fishing, but as a country idyll it is unmatched. He is one of the most saintly and loveable of Englishmen, and his style is as limpidly pure as the brooks he wrote of.

Wedgwood, Josiah (1730-1795), the great potter, thirteenth and youngest child of Thomas Wedgwood by his wife Mary (Stringer), was born at Burslem. His father came of an old Staffordshire family of good position, but, being a younger son, made his own living as a master potter. Josiah lost his father at the age of eight, had very little formal education, and at fourteen was apprenticed to his eldest brother, Thomas.

On the expiration of his indentures the latter refused to take him into partnership on account of his love for experimenting, and after two short partnerships Josiah set up for himself at the Ivy House Works, Burslem, in 1759. He was so immediately successful that in 1762 he was appointed potter to Queen Charlotte, and took additional premises at the Brick House. In 1764 he married a distant cousin, Sarah Wedgwood, and in 1766 he took into partnership his cousin, Thomas Wedgwood. In the latter year he bought a large extent of land between Burslem and Stoke, and proceeded to build there a village which he called Etruria, a residence called Etruria Hall, and a large pot works which was opened in 1769. This factory is still carried on by his lineal descendants. In 1768 Wedgwood's right leg, which had been affected by small-pox in his youth, and, having been accidentally injured since, had given him much trouble, had to be amputated. In the same year he took into partnership a friend of long standing, Thomas Bentley, of Liverpool. Wedgwood spent much energy and money in improving the roads of the district, and was one of the prime movers in the making of the Trent and Mersey Canal. In 1775 Bentley did the firm a great service by engaging Flaxman as modeller. Wedgwood died at Etruria Hall, and was buried at Stoke. He left to his family of seven a fortune of more than half a million. His main achievement is well summarised in the inscription upon his monument: "He converted a rude and inconsiderable manufactory into an elegant art and an important part of national commerce." He was indefatigable in experiment, a skilled chemist, an excellent man of business, a true artist, a highly cultured and a good man. It is impossible to record here all the improved forms of useful

ad ornamental pottery which he introduced; his best-nown wares were the cream-coloured earthenware, e black basaltes, the variegated or marbled, and, ost famous of all, his jasper ware in its many colours.

Wedgwood, Thomas (1771-1805), was the third son the great potter. He was born at Etruria Hall, d through ill health received almost all his education home. Illness also cut short his career in his ther's works, and he spent much of his life travelling vain search of a cure. His claim to remembrance sts on his gift of a life-annuity to S. T. Coleridge, d on the pioneer experiments which have gained m the title of "the first photographer." He used ost disinterestedly the fortune which he inherited on his ther's death. In 1798 he and his elder brother Josiah ade Coleridge a promise of an annuity of £150 for life, order that he might be free to devote himself wholly to etry and philosophy, but with no conditions whatever ached. The half for which Thomas was responsible as loyally secured by his will, but Josiah, in 1812, thought mself justified in withdrawing the other half. During e alarm of invasion in 1803-4 Wedgwood spent further rge sums in raising in the Lake District a corps, eighty rong, known as the "Loyal Wedgwood Volunteers."

He had very early in life practised scientific experi-ents, and was the first to point out the possibility of lising the light-sensitiveness of nitrate and chloride silver to produce pictures. Unfortunately, however, did not live to perfect his system, or, indeed, to scover any method of fixing his images, which nsequently had to be kept in the dark. His great m was to obtain records of the scenes shown in a mera obscura, but he could not succeed in producing substance sufficiently sensitive to record them.

He was the valued friend of many of the great men

of his time. Wordsworth says that he gave him "an impression of sublimity"; Thomas Campbell speaks of him as "a strange and wonderful being, full of goodness and benevolence, a man of wonderful talents." He died at Eastbury, Dorset, aged only 34.

Wild, Jonathan (1682?-1725), receiver of stolen goods and informer, was born at Wolverhampton, being the son of a wig maker. He became a buckle-maker, and married, but after the birth of a son he deserted his wife and went to London. There he was arrested for debt and thrown into the Wood Street prison. On his release he gained a living by most disreputable means, the least bad of which was blackmailing thieves. Gradually, however, he became the thieves' partner and a receiver of their booty. On the passing of an Act making receivers accessories to the crime he again converted his business, and organised a regular corporation of highwaymen, burglars, and pickpockets, whose plunder he stored in warehouses, then offering to restore his victim's property for considerable fees. He openly kept large offices for the recovery of "lost" property. He mercilessly hounded down any of his creatures who disowned his authority, and in 1724 he had the impudence to petition the Corporation of London for a grant of its freedom in recognition of his services as thief-taker. The authorities undoubtedly winked at his practices for a time in view of his usefulness. He was ultimately indicted for receiving a reward for restoring some stolen lace, and being found guilty was sentenced to death, and, after unsuccessfully attempting suicide, was hanged at Tyburn. His skeleton is still exhibited in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

De Wint, Peter (1784-1849), landscape-painter, was born at Stone. His father, Henry de Wint, was by birth an American of Dutch extraction, and practised

at Stone as a physician, while his mother, Caroline (Watson), was a Scotswoman. Peter, the fourth son, was intended for his father's profession, but succeeded in persuading his father to allow him to have drawing-lessons from a Mr Rogers of Stafford, and at eighteen went to London to be apprenticed to John Raphael Smith, the engraver. In 1809 he entered the Royal Academy schools, and in 1810 he joined the Society of Painters in Water-Colours, of which he became a full member in 1812. In 1810 he married Harriet, the sister of William Hilton, R.A. He devoted his life entirely to his art, and became not only one of the finest water-colourists of the English school, but also an admirable painter in oils. His work is distinguished by its simplicity of light and shade and its fidelity to common aspects of nature. His subjects were almost wholly English, many being taken from the neighbourhood of Lincoln, where was his wife's home. De Wint lived mainly in London, and died there. Both the South Kensington Museum and the National Gallery have many good examples of his work.

Wood, William (1671-1730), of "Wood's halfpence" fame, was an ironmaster of Wolverhampton of much prosperity, who is said to have had a lease of mines in Crown properties in thirty-nine counties. He resided at the noble Deanery at Wolverhampton from 1692 to 1713. In the year 1722, when he had removed to London, he obtained, by means of a payment of £10,000 to the Duchess of Kendal, the mistress of George I., the monopoly of coining halfpence and farthings for use in Ireland for fourteen years. In the course of a year he issued £17,000 worth of coin—an amount greatly in excess of the requirements, thus involving Ireland in a tax of about £6000 a year. The Irish Commons had not been

consulted about the patent, and in September 1723 they denounced it as a danger to the country. Wood boasted that "he would cram the brass down their throats whether they liked it or not," but in April 1724 Swift's "Drapier's Letters," full of savage indignation against Wood, began to appear, and for Swift's satire Wood was no match. "Wood, the Insect," and "William Wood, Brazier, Tinker, Hardwareman, Coiner, Counterfeiter, Founder, and Esquire," are sample titles of the verses with which Swift pursued him. The English Government gave way, and Wood surrendered his patent in August 1725. A similar fate befell the patents which he had secured for the coinage of the English colonies in America. Wood obtained by way of compensation a pension of £3000 a year for eight years, but died when he had enjoyed it for only three. He was the great-grandfather of no less unlikely a person than Mary Howitt.

XI. Bibliography

The following are some of the principal books upon Staffordshire generally. To enumerate all the histories of different towns and parishes would occupy too much space:—

Sampson Erdeswicke's "Survey of Staffordshire." Written 1593-1603. The earliest book devoted solely to the county. Chiefly genealogical, and frequently very inaccurate. First published 1723. Edited by Rev. T. Harwood, 1844.

Robert Plot's "Natural History of Staffordshire." 1686. A very curious work, chiefly valuable on account of its beautiful plates, by Martin Burghers, of the great mansions of the county.

Rev. Stebbing Shaw's "History and Antiquities of

Staffordshire," vol. i. 1798; vol. ii. 1801. Planned on a monumental scale, but the author died insane, crushed by his task, and the two volumes published deal with the Hundreds of Offlow and Seisdon only.

Robert Garner's "Natural History of the County of Stafford." 1844. Supplement 1860. Deals to some extent with the antiquities also.

Rev. R. W. Eyton's "Domesday Studies: An Analysis and Digest of the Staffordshire Survey." 1881.

C. Lynam's "Church Bells of the County of Stafford." 1889. Contains also many illustrations of the Church Towers and Spires of the county.

R. K. Dent and J. Hill's "Historic Staffordshire." 1896. A "popular" and uncritical work.

W. H. Duignan's "Notes on Staffordshire Place Names." 1902.

"The Victoria History of the County of Stafford." Edited by William Page. Vol. i. 1908. This, the only volume yet published, deals with the Natural History, History, and Early Antiquities of the county generally.

"Memorials of Old Staffordshire." Edited by Rev. W. Beresford. 1909.

Rev. F. A. Hibbert's "Monasticism in Staffordshire." 1909.

"Annual Reports of the North Staffordshire Field Club." 1866 to date (except 1867). A quarry full of information upon the Natural History and Antiquities of Staffordshire. An additional volume of papers read before the Club was published in 1875.

"Collections for a History of Staffordshire, edited by the William Salt Archæological Society." Annual volumes (sometimes in two parts) from 1880 to date. Contain invaluable extracts relating to the county from the Record Office Archives, histories of old county families, &c.

DESCRIPTION OF PLACES IN STAFFORDSHIRE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

NOTE.—The approximate position of any place can be readily discovered from the map on the fly-leaf, which shows all the railway stations. If the place has no railway station, its exact position can be found from the large map at the end of the book.

The following abbreviations are constantly used for the architectural styles:—

Trans. = Transitional-Norman (*i.e.* about 1145-1190).
E.E. = Early English (*i.e.* about 1190-1272).
Dec. = Decorated (*i.e.* about 1272-1377).
Perp. = Perpendicular (*i.e.* about 1377-1547, but in Staffordshire lingering into the reign of Charles I.).

Abbot's Bromley (6 m. from Rugeley) is so called through having belonged to Burton Abbey. It was once a market-town, but owing to its lacking the advantages of a railway, has fallen from its estate, and is now a very somnolent place. It retains, however, its little market-house, and has several "black-and-white" houses. The church (St Nicholas) is mostly modern, and is spoilt by an ugly classical tower, built in 1688. The ancient portions are the north wall of the nave and the arcades, which are Dec. The north wall contains an external arched recess, now empty, and has inside a brass to John Draycote (1463).

Abbot's Bromley is best known for its Horn Dance, a pageant of immemorial antiquity, formerly celebrated

ABBOT'S BROMLEY: THE HORN DANCERS

hat Christmas, New Year, and Twelfth Day, but now at the village "wakes" on the first Monday after September 4th. The earliest account of it is Plot's (*c.* 1680). "A person," he says, "carried the image of a horse between his legs, made of thin boards, and in his hand a bow and arrow, which passing through a hole in the bow and stopping upon a shoulder it had in it, he made a snapping noise as he drew it to and fro, keeping time with the music; with this man danced six others, carrying on their shoulders as many reindeers' heads, three of them painted white, and three red, with the arms of the chief families ((Paget, Bagot, and Wells) depicted on the palms of them, with which they danced the hays and other country dances. To this Hobby-horse Dance there also belonged a pot, which was kept by turns by four or five of the chief of the town, whom they called Reeves, who provided cakes and ale to put in this pot, all people who had any kindness for the good intent of the institution of the sport giving pence apiece for themselves and families, and so foreigners, too, that came to see it; with which money (the charge of the cakes and ale being defrayed) they not only repaired their church, but kept their poor too."

The dance is still much as Plot described it. The performers are now twelve in number: the six with the reindeer horns, which are fixed in wooden "heads," one (now called Robin Hood) with the hobby-horse, a boy with the cross-bow and arrow, a man representing Maid Marian, another in the guise of a fool, and two musicians, one carrying a very anachronistic concertina, and the other a triangle. All wear special and very quaint costumes of red and green, with flowered breeches. The "pot" has unhappily been lost within the last few years. The proceedings

are still enlivened by the snapping of the arrow upon the bow, and also by the clicking of the wooden jaw of the hobby-horse. The hobby-horse and the horns are still kept in the church tower, but the horns no longer bear arms. A remarkable fact is that the horns are undoubtedly, as Plot calls them, *reindeer* horns, and as reindeer are known to have been extinct in Britain before the Conquest, either the dance must have been celebrated in Saxon times, or the horns must have been imported since from abroad. The most plausible suggestion as to the origin of the dance is that it was a demonstration to prove that the townspeople possessed the right of hunting deer in the adjoining Needwood Forest.

At the Manor House, according to tradition, Mary Queen of Scots slept one night in the course of her journey from Chartley to Fotheringhay, and the name "Marie Stuart" is shown, traced with a diamond, on one of the windows, but this is considered to have been done in recent times.

Acton Trussell is a very small village 2½ miles from Penkridge. Acton means "oak-town," and the Trussells were the Norman lords of the manor. The church (St James), a very simple little building, was formerly a chapel of St Mary's at Stafford. It was satisfactorily restored under Mr G. E. Street in 1869-70. It is mainly Perp. work, some of the windows having good tracery. The tower, which bears a miniature spire, has the date 1566 over its west window. There is a "low side" window in the south wall of the chancel, and the piscina and aumbry remain.

Adbaston is a remote village, 7 m. from the nearest station (Newport, in Shropshire). The church (St Michael) is mainly of the 15th cent., but there is a small early Norman window on either side of the

chancel, and the chancel arch is shown by some nail-head ornament to be E.E. The East window is a fine 15th cent. one. There is an alabaster slab to Reginald de Adbaston (1440), and some stone coffin-lids of the 13th or 14th centuries are built into the wall of the north aisle.

Aldridge was originally Alrewich, *i.e.* the alder village. The church (St Mary) has a handsome tower, mainly Perp. in its features, but much of the walling is of earlier date. The rest of the church was rebuilt in 1853, except the N. arcade (probably E.E.) and the S. aisle (Dec.). A fine stone effigy of a knight, in chain mail, and with a rampant lion on his shield, lies hidden away under an arch beneath the tower; it is said to commemorate one of the heads of the de Alrewich family. Another stone effigy, much more worn, is in the chancel; it represents a priest, probably one Robert Stapleton, the founder of the church (temp. Henry III.). The pulpit is Jacobean.

Alrewas (pronounced all-roo-as) is a straggling village by the side of the Trent. Its name means "the alder swamp." It has several black-and-white thatched houses. It has possessed a church for nearly 1100 years at least, for the prebend of Alrewas was established in Lichfield Cathedral by Bishop Athelwald in 822. The present church (All Saints) has many points of interest. The tower is Perp., but has a Norman west doorway (of somewhat plain design), and there is a similar doorway in the Dec. N. aisle. The interior is remarkably handsome, owing in great measure to the graceful and lofty arcades. The S. arcade is Trans. and the N. Perp., with clustered pillars. The 16th cent. roof should be noticed. The chancel is E.E.; it has on the N. three lancets and a "low side"

window, and on the S. two lancets and a priest's door. There are also sedilia and a piscina of a severely simple type, and some well carved stalls. On the N. wall of the chancel are some remains of a wall-painting showing a bishop in the attitude of benediction and an acolyte holding a mitre. The chancel clerestory is modern. The Turton chapel in the S. aisle has two sedilia and two aumbries. The font is Perp., but the top portion has been renewed. The pulpit is richly carved, and bears the inscription: "Jesus Christ and him crucified, 1639."

There are many who will like to associate Alrewas with the name of Canon Ainger, the much-loved Master of the Temple, who, in 1860-3, held his first and only curacy here.

The parish possesses a number of early manorial Court Rolls of great interest and value, although the series is not continuous. The earliest Roll runs from 1259 to 1261, and is among the very earliest English Court Rolls in existence.

Alstonfield (originally Ane's stone field) is 2 m. from Alsop Stat. It is a village standing among fine bleak scenery above the valley of the Dove. It is on coming into sight of its church that Viator, in the Second Part of the "Compleat Angler," exclaims to Piscator Junior (Charles Cotton), "What have we here, a church? As I'm an honest man, a very pretty church! Have you churches in this country, sir?" "You see we have," replies Piscator, "but had you seen none, why should you make that doubt, sir?" "Why, if you'll not be angry, I'll tell you; I thought myself a stage or two beyond Christendom."

The church (St Peter) possesses three fragments of Saxon sculptured crosses: (1) now erected in the

porch. This is a most interesting relic, having on one face two male figures with their arms raised in the ancient attitude of prayer, both apparently aureoled. The body of the lower figure is curiously formed of a double rosette, and he wears a belt, sword, and short skirt. (2) In the churchyard, N. of the chancel. This has plaitwork only, one of the cords ending in a serpent's head. (3) A small fragment, built into the wall of the N. aisle. This also has plaitwork only, and may be the upper part of number 2.

The chancel arch and the outer arch of the S. doorway are Norman, the S. arcade of the nave is Dec., and most of the remainder of the nave and the tower are late Perp. The chancel was rebuilt by Laurence Beresford in 1590, some lancet and Dec. windows being replaced in an indifferent fashion. There is an E.E. double piscina. The best features of the church are perhaps the pews, pulpit, and reading desk of finely carved oak, dated 1637 and 1639. The pulpit bears a text very quaintly abbreviated: "Be faithful, &c., and I will give thee a crown, &c." The Charles Cotton pew, now removed to the E. end of the N. aisle, is the best carved of all the work, but has been barbarously painted green. Walton and Cotton, doubtless, frequently sat in it together.

Near the church is the manor house, a stone building, bearing the date 1587 and the initials J. H. (John Harpur).

Alton is a village standing at the top of a steep ascent from the Churnet Valley. In a splendid position on a precipitous rock overlooking the valley are the remains of a castle, built about 1175 by Bertram de Verdun, a judge, who afterwards accompanied Richard I. to the Holy Land, and died at Joppa in 1192.

The Alton estate passed in 1316 to the Furnivals, and early in the 15th cent. to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, to whom it still belongs. The remains of the castle consist of part of the outer wall and of a tower in it, but the site is now mainly occupied with the buildings of a modern nunnery, and special permission to see the ruins is necessary. The church (St Peter) is modern, except a Norman N. arcade of five and a half bays and a Perp. tower. A curious feature of the arcade is that the arches grow gradually lower towards the W. with the slope of the ground. The font (on a modern base) bears the Talbot crest; it is probably of the 16th cent.

On Bunbury Hill, on the opposite side of the valley, stands the Earl of Shrewsbury's seat, Alton Towers. It was built in imitation Gothic style, partly by A. W. Pugin, in the middle of the 19th cent. The gardens are fine, but are rather marred by the presence of such out-of-place architectural creations as Italian Lodges and Chinese Pagodas. Their construction almost obliterated the great prehistoric earth-fortress which previously crowned the hill. The two long drives to the Towers—the one through Dimminsdale, and the other (called the Quixhill Drive) along the Churnet Valley—pass through most charming scenery, and used to be the delight of many, but they are now entirely closed to the public.

Amblecote is on the Worcestershire border, being separated from Stourbridge only by the river Stour. The parish was formed in 1842. Glass-making is the chief industry.

Anslow is a village 2½ m. from Tutbury Stat. The parish was formed in 1861.

Armitage is a village lying prettily on rising ground above the Trent. Its name is properly Eremitage (*i.e.*

hermitage), but the place of the hermit's residence is forgotten. The church (St John the Baptist) was rebuilt (except the tower) in 1844—the nave in a machine-made Norman style—but it retains two very notable late Norman possessions. One is a circular font, which has seven sculptured panels, each containing two intensely grotesque human figures, and the other a rectangular cross-shaft in the churchyard, ornamented with heads of animals. The tower is Perp., and bears on a stone on the western side the name "Thomas Trubshaw," which is merely that of a local builder who restored it about 1830.

Close to Armitage Stat. is Handsacre Hall, an ancient building partly of brick and partly of half-timbered work, surrounded by earthworks and a moat, which is still filled with water. It was the home of Sir William Handsacre, an account of whose death is given under Mavesyn Ridware.

Ashley is 4 m. from Pipe Gate Stat., and the same distance from Whitmore. Its original name was Æsca's Ley. The church (St John the Baptist) is all modern except the tower, which, like the neighbouring church of Broughton, is "stonemasons' Gothic" of the early 17th cent. Like the tower of Broughton, this one has arches on its N., E., and S. sides. Modern windows have been inserted in its W. wall. The church contains, among other monuments, an elaborate Renaissance alabaster tomb with figures of Thomas, Lord Gerrard of Gerrard's Bromley, and his wife and family (1617), and a figure of Thomas Kinnersley of Clough Hall (1819), executed by Chantrey.

Willoughbridge Wells, a large house in this parish, is so called from some warm springs in its grounds, which were of considerable repute for their curative

properties in the late 17th cent. There still remains a bath-house erected over them by Lady Gerrard.

Aston-by-Stone is 2 m. from Stone Stat. The parish (called Aston and Burston) was formed in 1846.

Audley (Ealdgyth's land), a colliery village, stands on the Ryknield Street, 2 m. from the Roman camp at Chesterton. The church (St James) is well worth visiting for the sake of its ancient memorials to the dead. It has a massive Dec. tower. The nave arcades are also Dec.; the N. aisle, with its square-headed windows, is probably of the 16th cent.; the S. aisle is for the most part modern. There is a plain octagonal font, probably of the 17th cent. The chancel was mainly rebuilt in 1846, in a fairly good modern "Perp." style, but unhappily the stone used was so friable that much of the best work on the exterior has already crumbled away. Much harm was done in other ways, the outside proportions of the church being spoilt by the erection of a high roof, and by a small N. chapel being entirely swept away. The exterior of the N. wall of the chancel, which is the only old wall, shows signs of the former N. chapel, for the piscina remains, and the marks of the roof are visible. There is also a bricked-up arched recess in this wall; a similar (modern) recess in the S. wall contains two ancient coffin-lids of stone.

The most interesting object in the church is the brass in the chancel to Sir Thomas de Audley (1385). The Norman-French inscription beneath his feet runs: "Ici gist mons' Thoma d' Audeley, Chivaler, fiz a mons' James d'Audele, Seigno de Helegh, de Rouge Chastell, qi morust le xxi jo' de januar l'an de Grac' MCCCLXXXV quunt, de qi alme Dieu psa pitie eit merci. amen." There is an alabaster

figy of a knight in a recess on the N. side of the chancel. Both arms are lost, but otherwise it is well preserved. The figure wears plate armour, with camail ring from the helm over cheeks and neck. It is traditionally assigned to Richard de Delves, said to be one of the four squires of the famous Sir James de Audley at the battle of Poitiers, and the style of armour allows it to be of about that date, but Delves would naturally be buried in his own parish church in Cheshire, and the effigy much more probably represents a member of the Audley family. Near to this is another effigy, which suffers considerably by comparison with the simple dignity of the earlier figure. This is of a priest in cap and gown, and represents Edward Vernon, a vicar of Audley and founder of Audley Grammar School (1622). On the N. wall of the chancel is a small late brass to a civilian, William Abnett (1628). Both the brasses in this church were restored in 1914. Lastly, hidden away behind the organ, on the E. wall of the N. aisle, is a curious little plaster figure of a knight, standing in a niche. It is probably of the Elizabethan period.

Bagnall is a village 1 m. from Stockton Brook Stat. The church is wholly modern. The parish of Knucknall-with-Bagnall was formed in 1807.

Barlaston is a pleasant village which is fortunate enough to have retained, in spite of Inclosure Acts, its village green. The church (St John the Baptist) was entirely rebuilt in 1888-9, except the tower, which is of the 16th cent. There is some pretty scenery on the "Downs Banks," a common between here and Stone.

Great Barr is a village 2 m. from its stat. The church (St Margaret) was entirely rebuilt in 1860,

except the tower and spire, which were restored in 1893. The word Barr is a Celtic name for a summit, obviously given in this instance to the hill now called Barr Beacon.

Barton-under-Needwood is ½ m. from Barton-and-Walton Stat. The name Barton means simply a rickyard. The church (St James) is remarkable as having been built throughout at one time, and at the cost of a single man. This was Dr John Taylor, whose history is a curious one. He was one of three sons of a poor tailor in the village who were born at one birth, a circumstance so peculiar that, according to Anthony Wood, they were shown as a curiosity to Henry VII., who (says Wood) interested himself in the children so much as to undertake the expense of their education. However this may be, John Taylor was throughout his life undoubtedly high in the favour of Henry VIII. He accompanied him as his chaplain to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, acted as English Ambassador to foreign Courts, and was Master of the Rolls from 1527 until shortly before his death in 1534. He built the church at Barton, according to a date in the E. window, in 1533, and it is a striking example of the work of its period. Both aisles, however, have been rebuilt in recent years to enlarge the church. The three-sided apsidal form of the chancel should be noticed, and the ancient glass in the window, containing a representation of the Crucifixion and somewhat grotesque figures of the twelve apostles. An arch in the outer S. wall of the chancel was apparently intended for Taylor's burial-place, but it has been built up. Taylor's initials and his coat-of-arms, with its three babes' heads (in allusion to the circumstances of his birth) and two Tudor roses occur in several places about the building. On four

shields above the nave arcades is an inscription which, when extended, reads as follows: "I. T. horum trium gemellorum natu maximus: decretorum doctor et sacrorum canonum professor: Derbie et Bukkygham necnon et: magister rotulorum illustrissimi regis Henrici VIII anno regni sui 20."

Baswich, or *Berkswich* (2 m. from Stafford), has a church (Holy Trinity) of some melancholy interest as an example of the violence cheerfully done to many ancient churches during the 18th cent. The only relics of the mediæval structure are the tower and the chancel arch (of Trans. workmanship). With these exceptions, the whole church has been rebuilt in brick, with round-headed windows of the type commonly seen in an engine-house, containing glass of a bluish colour. By far the greater part of the chancel is occupied by two enormous pews, lifted on pillars half-way to the roof, one of which, intended for the use of the squire, contains a fire-place, but in the other his household was left to shiver. The squire's Sunday morning, however, must have been quite luxurious. Given a cheerful fire and a corner seat secure from impertinent eyes in the congregation, where could one doze more comfortably? In order to make the stairway to the servants' pew, the interesting table-tomb of Brian Fowler and Jehan (Hanmer), his wife, was shamefully cut into, and its dates destroyed, but it appears from its character to belong to the early 16th cent. It never bore effigies. In character with the chancel pews are the pulpit and reading-desk, with clerk's desk below, and the gallery at the western end.

Below the church, on the L. bank of the Sow, stood a Priory of Augustinian (Black) Canons, dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury, and jointly founded by

Richard Peche, Bishop of Lichfield, and one Gerarp, a wealthy burgess of Stafford, about 1174, three years after its patron's death. Bishop Peche retired to the Priory shortly before his death, and was there buried. Another notable person whose remains lie at the Priory was Robert de Ferrers, of Tutbury, Earl of Derby, one of the most prominent supporters of Simon de Montfort, who was buried there by his own wish in 1278 or 1279. Considerable portions of the ancient buildings exist, but are now so incorporated in a farm-house and corn-mill and their outbuildings that their plan is difficult to follow. The lower portion of the wall of the N. transept and N. chapel of the church may, nevertheless, be identified, standing in a line with the N. wall of the farm garden, as well as remnants of the cloisters and domestic buildings, close to the river bank. The farm is still known locally as "Senthomas," with the accent on the first syllable.

Beresford Dale is about 2 m. from Hulme End Stat. (on the Manifold Valley Light Railway). To reach it from that place the directions are: Cross the bridge over the Manifold and turn at once to the R., then take the first turn to the L., and on reaching cross-roads continue straight on down a lane. This reaches the Dove at the ford called Beresford (originally Beavers' ford), which is the lower end of the beautiful little ravine (only $\frac{1}{4}$ m. in length) called Beresford Dale. Passing up it we soon reach a famous spot. "But what have we got here?" cries Viator (in Charles Cotton's Second Part of "The Compleat Angler") to his host, Piscator Junior (Charles Cotton). "A rock springing up in the middle of the river! This is one of the oddest sights that ever I saw." "Why, sir," replies

BERESFORD DALE: PIKE POOL

BERESFORD DALE: THE FISHING HOUSE

his host, "from that pike that you see standing up there distant from the rock, this is called Pike Pool; and young Mr Izaak Walton was so pleased with it, as to draw it in landscape, in black and white, in a blank book I have at home." Beside this is a footbridge, on crossing which the far-famed Fishing House soon comes into sight, but the public are now shut off from access to it. Though it fell into sad disrepair during the early 19th cent., it has been tenderly preserved since, and externally is still practically as Cotton erected it, retaining over its door the two celebrated stones—the one inscribed "Piscatoribus Sacrum. 1674," and the other bearing intertwined the initials "I. W." and "C.C."—the memorial of a perfect friendship. Cotton tells us that his "father" Walton saw the cypher cut, but only the beginnings of the building of the house, so that one cannot think of the two seated in it together; but to picture them wandering with rods and baskets through the Dale is, of course, abundantly warranted. Above all, no one who visits Beresford Dale should fail to read Cotton's enthusiastic verses called "The Retirement." Here there is only space to quote one stanza:—

"Good God, how sweet are all things here!
How beautiful the fields appear!
How cleanly do we feed and lie!
Lord, what good hours we keep!
How quietly we sleep!
What peace, what unanimity!
How innocent from the lewd fashion
Is all our business, all our conversation!"

Cotton's home, Beresford Hall, stood hidden from the Dale behind the high ground on the Staffordshire side, a large but somewhat plain house of stone, which was unnecessarily destroyed about 1860. A fragment

of walling and a doorway alone survive, and these are in private grounds. The "Prospect Tower" above the Dale is modern.

Betley is on the Cheshire border, 1 m. from Betley Road Stat. The church (St Margaret) is, with the exception of Rushton Spencer, the only Staffordshire church which is in any considerable part timber-built. The remaining timber portions are the nave arcades (of four bays), the interior of the clerestory, and the roof, all of beautiful old oak. The pillars of the arcades, each consisting of a single tree-trunk, are very curious. The remainder of the nave was rebuilt under Sir Gilbert Scott in 1842, but the original outer walls (probably of half-timber) had been destroyed before that date. The tower was built in the years 1690-93, and the chancel by Sir Ralph Egerton in 1610. The pulpit is of the same date. A mural monument in the chancel has kneeling figures of Ralph and Frances Egerton, the parents of Sir Ralph, and one of their daughters (1610). The 17th.-cent. churchwardens' accounts of this parish contain several quaint items, *e.g.* "1638. Spent in tow severall dayes in goeing and walking the perambulation and liberties of the parishe, being very dry and houngery, 3s. 6d." "1656. Paid to John Corne for goeing with us twoe dayes because we could neither of us read, 1s."

Betley Old Hall is a handsome half-timbered gabled building, one of the rooms of which bears on the panelling the initials of Ralph and Frances (?) Egerton, and the legend "Da gloriam Deo. 1621," with the wise saw :—

"Justitia sine Prudentia nihil poterit;
Sine Justitia Prudentia nihil valebit."

BIDDULPH OLD HALL

An older house, also half-timbered, has on a beam the date 1532, and the initials of Robert Harding. Betley Mere is a pretty sheet of water, through which passes the boundary between Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Biddulph is a small village, on the Cheshire border, with collieries and iron works in the neighbourhood. The church (St Lawrence) is mainly ancient. It contains a brass to William Bowyer of Knypersley (1602) and his wife Ann (Heywood) and their fifteen children; a table-tomb to Sir William Bowyer (1640), and a modern marble monument, with figures of Our Lord and two angels, to William and Mary Heath. One window contains old Flemish glass. The circular font, with a pattern of interlaced arches, is Trans. There are a number of carved stone coffin lids outside the church.

Biddulph Old Hall has been in ruins since its destruction by the Parliamentarian forces, but enough remains to prove that it was a very stately Tudor mansion. It still bears on the R. of the main entrance the date 1558, its builder being Francis Biddulph. At the time of the Civil War it was held by a later Francis Biddulph, who had received a knighthood, and was called by the Parliamentarian Committee of Safety "a great Papist and a captain in the Royalist forces." It was besieged by Captain John Ashenhurst in January 1643, and after a resistance, the stubbornness of which is still well attested by bullet marks upon the walls, was captured and dismantled. The defence seems to have been conducted, like so many other brave defences of Royalist country houses, by the lady of the owner.

Biddulph Moor is a piece of wild, high country, which is the birthplace of the river Trent. On its edge

is one of the two megalithic monuments of Staffordshire. This is known as "The Bridestones," and consists of a kistvaen, or grave of unhewn stones, with several monoliths round it, some now prostrate and others still upright.

At Knypersley is another aggregation of stones, the largest of which, lying across two others, is called the "Gawton Stone." The arrangement has been called a cromlech, but is certainly natural, the large stone having evidently fallen from the hill above.

Bilston is one of the Black Country towns, making all manner of iron goods. Its population rose from 6914 in 1801 to 24,364 in 1861, when the iron trade was at the height of its prosperity, but has remained practically stationary since. It was a chapelry of Wolverhampton until the 19th cent. The old church (St Leonard) was rebuilt in 1826 in the classical taste of the day.

Bishopswood is a rural parish on the Shropshire border, 5 m. from Four Ashes Stat. The church was built in 1848, and the parish formed in 1852. Blackladies (see under Brewood) is now in this parish.

Black Heath is a modern manufacturing parish (formed 1869) on the Worcestershire border, ½ m. from Rowley Regis Stat.

Blithfield (usually "Bliffield") has belonged to the Bagot family since the 14th cent., and the Hall is now the residence of Lord Bagot. It is 3½ m. from Rugeley. The church (St Leonard) stands in the park surrounding the Hall. The tower is Dec., and the nave and chancel E.E., with a clerestory added about 1500. Most of the windows are Perp. The churchyard cross has been very well restored. The 13th-cent. effigy of "Alfred, priest of Holcrombe," under an arch in the S. wall of the chancel, should

be noticed. Other interesting features are: 16th-cent. glass in tower and chancel (a window in the tower has figures of the three wives of Sir Lewis Bagot); early 15th-cent. benches, with handsome ends; the chancel screen (probably a little later); the curious rude octagonal font; the double piscina and sedilia in the chancel; and the fine carved and inlaid oak altar-table, made out of an old bedstead from a neighbouring farm-house. There are numerous monuments, of which the most interesting are: (1) table-tomb, with incised figures of Sir Lewis Bagot (1534) and his three wives, the same ladies as those shown in the tower window—the head only of the first wife appears in each case, probably because she died young and childless; (2) table-tomb, with incised figures of Thomas Bagot (son of Sir Lewis), 1541, and his wife Joan; (3) alabaster slab to Francis and Mary Aston (1593); (4) table-tomb, with effigies of Richard and Mary Bagot (1596); Richard's helmet still hangs above this tomb, with the Bagot goat crest.

The Hall contains, among other valuable pictures, a portrait of Elizabeth's favourite, Robert, Earl of Essex; one of his chief friends in his early years was Anthony, son of Richard Bagot.

Blore Ray (*i.e.* Regis) is a remote hamlet 1 m. from Dovedale and 2 m. from Thorpe Stat. The church (St Bartholomew) has a Dec. tower, but otherwise is mostly of the 15th cent. It is known to have been extensively restored in 1519 by one of the many William Bassets who lived at the manor-house; a new E. window was inserted, and the fine screens, benches and choir-stalls, and the font, are probably all of this date. There is some ancient glass, one light of the S. chancel window showing St Anne teaching the Virgin to read. There is a

floor brass in the N. aisle to William Basset (1498) and his wife Joan (Burgh), and the Basset chapel is entirely occupied with an unusually elaborate tomb, erected by Elizabeth Basset, the last of her line. The central recumbent effigy on the tomb is shown by a grandiloquent rhymed inscription to be that of her father, William Basset, and the other recumbent effigies are believed to be those of her mother, Judith (Austen) and her first husband, Henry Howard, son of the Earl of Suffolk. The latter was buried at Blore in 1616, and the tomb was probably put up soon after his death. It also has two kneeling figures of Elizabeth herself, represented mourning her relations. The lady married, as her second husband, the first Duke of Newcastle, and brought him the then colossal fortune of £3200 a year.

Close to the church is Blore Hall, once the residence of the Bassets, but now used as a farm-house. It has several 15th-cent. windows and window-heads, and traces of a moat.

Blore Heath (see *Mucklestone*).

Bloxwich is a manufacturing town of some 7000 inhabitants on the N. side of the Black Country. The church (All Saints'), a chapel of Walsall until 1842, has been several times rebuilt, the last time in 1876-77.

Blurton is a hamlet, marvellously rural considering its neighbourhood, just outside the town of Longton. It was formerly a chapelry of Trentham, but has been a separate parish since 1831. The church (St John the Baptist) is a small building, with only a wooden bell-turret to hold its single bell. The nave (originally the whole church) was built in 1626, and has a good open timber roof. The N. aisle is modern. The chancel was added in 1750, but the bad work of that period has been considerably improved in recent years.

The window now on its S. side is probably the original east window of the church.

Blymhill is a remote little village, 6 m. from Shifnal Stat.[1] The church (St Mary) was "restored" by Mr Street in 1859, but in fact mostly rebuilt, except for the E.E. south arcade, the Dec. chancel, and the Perp. tower. The windows of the chancel contain some excellent flowing tracery. In the outside of its S. wall is an arched recess, containing a tomb, probably that of the builder of the chancel, though the position is unusual. The parish chest is covered with some good old ironwork.

Bobbington ($8\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Wolverhampton) is a small village in pretty wooded country on the Shropshire border. The little church (Holy Cross) was restored under Sir A. W. Blomfield in 1878. It has a Norman arcade of four arches dividing the nave from the N. (and only) aisle and a Trans. chancel arch. The two small lancet windows at either end of the aisle are of the same period. There is a plain font of the 13th cent., and in the porch is a remarkable sepulchral slab of the 12th cent. with a raised male figure. The parish chest is exceedingly primitive and curious; it is constructed from a solid oaken log, and contains two compartments, the lids of which are almost covered with wrought-iron bands, similar bands being criss-crossed over the sides. In the churchyard are two of the most ancient yew-trees in the county, full of vitality still, although the hearts of both are entirely decayed.

Bradley-in-the-Moors is a hamlet 1 m. from Alton Stat.[2] The little church (All Saints) was quaintly rebuilt in 1750, the only vestige of the earlier church

[1] The name seems to mean "bloom hill"; a "bloom" being a mass of charcoal-smelted iron.

[2] It was formerly a chapelry of Rocester.

being an ancient stone coffin. The churchyard contains some venerable yews, and a tombstone to the memory of one Anne Snape, bearing the impossible date of 1307 —shown by the register to be a rustic mason's mistake for 1707. It bears the touching legend:

> "Thus Death between us two has got,
> And so hath broke a true love-knot."

Bradeley (2½ m. from Haughton Stat.) has a most interesting church (All Saints), admirably restored in 1907-8 under Mr Caroe. The name of the village is sometimes spelt Bradley, but it is pronounced with the a long, as it was originally; the meaning is "broad pasture." The church is mainly E.E., with a Perp. tower. Its finest feature is the arcade of three bays (*c.* 1260) on the N. of the nave. The lofty arches and the clustered shafts from which they spring have an exquisite grace which it would be difficult to match in any parish church of the size. On the S. of the chancel arch the rood-loft staircase is conspicuous. The arcade between the chancel and the N. chapel is some years earlier in date than the nave arcade. An early stone coffin-lid is preserved beneath the tower, and there is a portion of another outside the church. There is a very fine Norman "tub" font, and a few fragments of old glass. The alabaster tomb (*c.* 1600) to one "oraculous Browne" (as the verse above styles him) of Shredicote, and his wife, with small painted kneeling figures, is good of its kind.

Bramshall is 2 m. from Uttoxeter. The church (St Lawrence) was rebuilt in a wretched fashion in 1835, and the only relics of the old structure are some pieces of ancient glass in the east window. These have some coats of arms and a kneeling figure of a lady

in a flowered gown with the name "Alice Tame, Lady Verney."

Branston is 2 m. from Burton-on-Trent. It was created a parish in 1870, and includes Sinai Park, an interesting half-timbered house forming three sides of a square and surrounded by a moat. It is known to have belonged to Burton Abbey, and was probably used by the monks as a summer residence.

Brereton, 1½ m. from Rugeley, became a parish in 1843, and has a modern church and some collieries. The name means bramble-hill.

Brewood, a small town which once possessed the distinction of a market, is 2½ m. from Four Ashes Stat. The name is pronounced "Brood"; its first syllable is said to be one of the many Celtic terms for a hill. If so, Brewood is one of the few names formed from two languages. The local street names of Bargate and Broadgate do not, as might be supposed, refer to gates in a town wall, the word "gate" here means simply "road" or "street." The church (St Mary) is interesting. It has a handsome Perp. tower and spire, and a lofty nave of the same period. The spacious chancel is E.E., and the N. aisle Dec. The clerestory in the inner portion of the S. aisle is a curious addition, made during a modern restoration by Mr G. S. Street, who seems to have been responsible also for the five quaint gables which contain the doors and windows of that aisle. The tombs in the church are exceptionally fine. In the chancel are four splendidly-preserved table-tombs of alabaster, adorned with paint and gilding, to successive heads of the house of Giffard of Chillington. The earliest bears effigies of Sir John Giffard, with his two wives and no less than eighteen children. He was born in 1466, acted as Henry VIII.'s standard-bearer in

France in 1513, was at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520, and lived to the age of 90. The next tomb is that of Sir Thomas (died 1560), who, like his father, was twice married, and in the matter of children went only one worse. The third is of John Giffard (died 1613, but the date is lacking on the tomb), and his wife "Jeyse," or Joyce, whose offspring numbered only fourteen, one of them being the infamous Gilbert Giffard. This Sir John suffered a long imprisonment through his refusal to conform to the State religion. Lastly comes the tomb of Walter Giffard (1632) and his wife Philippa. This shows no children, though there were at least eight. Like his father, Walter Giffard was much persecuted for his adherence to the Roman Church and the Jesuit party. Later members of the family are represented by floor slabs, also in the chancel. The earliest memorial now remaining in the church is an incised alabaster slab in the S. aisle, with figures of Richard Lane (died 1514) and his wife. In the same aisle is a tablet to Jane (Leveson), who married successively William Sheppington, William Fowke, and Edward Giffard, and died in 1572; this has undergone the curious experience of being built into the station-master's house at Four Ashes. There are also 17th-cent. wall tombs, with miniature kneeling figures, to the Moretons of Engleton, and in a nameless grave in the churchyard lies Colonel William Carlos (died 1689), the faithful adherent who sat with Charles II. in the Royal Oak at Boscobel, and when the King slept, supported his head on his arm. Carlos's home was Broom Hall, in Brewood parish, but the house was rebuilt in 1884.

"Brewood Forest" existed till the time of King John, who disafforested it. The medieval Bishops of

Lichfield had a manor house close to the town, and though this has gone, there are several half-timbered and Queen Anne houses which give the place an air of picturesqueness. There is a flourishing grammar school, where Dr Johnson applied for the post of usher in 1736 (the year of his marriage), but was rejected because the headmaster feared that his semi-paralytic affliction would make him a butt for the boys. At the corner of the market-place is a hideous building, built by a local apothecary out of money won in successful bets on the Duke of Bolton's horse "Speedwell," and named accordingly "Speedwell Castle."

The neighbourhood is very rich in old houses, the best of which are Brewood Hall, an Elizabethan mansion built by the Fowkes, and Blackladies, a very charming large gabled house of red brick which envelops portions of the Benedictine Nunnery from which it takes its name. During the Civil War a Parliamentary garrison held it for six days against a force under Lord Wilmot. Boscobel and Whiteladies are close to it, but these belong (by a matter of yards only) to Shropshire.

Of the noble estate of Chillington and of the family of Giffard, to whom it has belonged since 1178, much might be said, were space unlimited. The present house is unfortunately a blatant building of brick, with a classical portico, built in 1787 from designs of the then fashionable Sir John Soane. The domain is, however, very fine, with a large pool and two broad avenues almost in a line, together about two miles in length. At the lodge, between the two avenues, stands a rough wooden cross, widely known as "Giffard's Cross," about which a curious story is told. The 16th-cent. Sir John Giffard, who was the father of eighteen children, kept, it is said, a wild panther in a

cage. The panther one day escaped; all the household was soon in pursuit, but it was Sir John himself who discovered the beast, in the very act of stalking a woman and child. Sir John was armed only with a cross-bow, but his bolt pierced the heart of the panther midway in its spring. The cross is said to mark the scene of the exploit, and in confirmation of the story it is pointed out that Sir John was granted as a crest a panther's head, and as a motto the words "Prenez haleine, tirez forte" (take breath, pull hard). During the Rebellion Chillington was garrisoned by the Giffards for the King, but it was soon reduced, the head of the house being taken prisoner, and the Parliament did not think it worth holding. Of the later members of the family the best known are Dr Bonaventure Giffard, who was appointed Vicar Apostolic of England under James II., and has been made famous through a panegyric by Macaulay, and Lady Throckmorton, the friend of the poet Cowper.

Brierley Hill is a populous modern manufacturing town, which (including the districts of Brockmoor and Quarry Bank) had in 1901 a population of some 23,000. St Michael's Church was originally built in 1766, and has been several times enlarged and restored. There is a variety of industries, notably those in iron, glass, and fire-bricks.

Broughton is 4 m. from Standon Bridge Stat. It has lost a part of its name, for it appears in Domesday Book as Hereborgestone (*i.e.* Hereburh's house). The church of St Peter was until 1907 a donative chapel in the gift of the Delves-Broughton family. It was built, as appears from a stone in the floor of the nave, by Thomas Broughton between 1630 and 1634, and is of considerable interest as a specimen of the "stonemason's gothic," which continued in remote

places quite untouched by the classical revival. The short tower, like that at Ashley, is supported by arches on every side but the W. The fine E. window and two other windows in the chancel retain their original glass. In that on the E. appear four figures of uncertain identity—probably ancestors of the Broughton family; in that to the S. figures of other ancestors—Sir John Delves of Doddington, Cheshire, and his wife; and in that to the N. arms of various families connected with the Broughtons by marriage. The windows (except the E. one) are square headed; one is in a very quaint position, in the E. gable of the nave, above the chancel. The brasses on the chancel floor to the founder, his wife and daughter, and the original font and pews all deserve notice.

In the neighbourhood are the splendid woods called the Burnt Woods and the Bishop's Woods. Not far from the latter is Blore Pipe House, which has a slight connection with history, for, after the battle of Worcester in 1651, it afforded a refuge to one Colonel Blague,[1] a Royalist refugee, who had been entrusted by Charles II. with one of the crown jewels, known as the "lesser George." At Blore Pipe House Blague handed it over to his host, one George Barlow, and it eventually came into the hands of Izaak Walton, who, as one might expect, was a devoted Royalist. Meanwhile Blague had been captured and imprisoned in the Tower, but he succeeded in making his escape, received the jewel from Walton again, and at last justified the trust reposed in him by restoring it to the King in France.

Brown Edge is 1¼ m. from Endon Stat. The parish was formed in 1845.

Bucknall was formed into a parish (with Bagnall) in 1807. The church, originally built in 1718 out of

[1] Colonel Blague, or Blagge, was the father of Margaret Godolphin, whose "Life" was written by John Evelyn.

materials from the ruins of Hulton Abbey, was rebuilt in 1856.

Burntwood is 1½ m. from Hammerwich Stat. The church was built in 1819 and the parish formed in 1845. Here is an enormous range of buildings constituting one of the two chief Lunatic Asylums of the county, and a more pleasant place—Ediall Hall (Ediall is pronounced Eddyall). Here it was that Johnson at the age of twenty-seven attempted to start a private school for boys, inserting in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1736 the advertisement, "At Edial, near Lichfield, in Staffordshire, young gentlemen are boarded and taught the Latin and Greek languages by Samuel Johnson." But the attempt was a disastrous failure. Three pupils only were secured—David and George Garrick and a boy named Offeley, and these seem to have spent much of their time in ridiculing the oddities of their master, who for his part was employing his leisure in writing "Irene." In March 1737 the school was finally abandoned, and Johnson set off to try his fortune in London, taking David Garrick with him to a school at Rochester. A portion of the hall has been pulled down since Johnson's day, but the rest looks as if it had suffered little alteration. It is a stately brick building with dormer-windows, and must have been not long built when Johnson lived in it.

Attached to the large residence called Maple Hayes is the "Botanic Garden" made by the once famous Erasmus Darwin, and celebrated by him in a poem which very unsuccessfully attempts to wed the Muse to Science.

Burslem is one of the towns of the Potteries, and in its characteristics is typical of them all. Like most other manufacturing towns, they are not attractive in

appearance, but a visit to one of the "pot-banks" (*i.e.* works) is an experience which cannot fail to fascinate anyone who takes an interest in the process of manufacture of the articles off which he takes his daily meals. Burslem was well known as early as the 17th cent. for its manufacture of coarse earthenware, and is rightly called the "Mother" of the Potteries. The Wedgwood Memorial Institute contains a fine collection of Staffordshire ware, notably Wedgwood's own. The old church (St John the Baptist) still possesses a 15th-cent. tower, but the rest of the building is a monstrous brick addition of the 18th cent.

Burston, a small village $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Stone, once had a Saxon chapel, built, according to the story, by Ermenilda, Queen of Mercia, at the spot where her mythical son Rufin was slain by his father (see under Stone). A portion of the building remained in Erdeswicke's time, but it has now been replaced by a brick erection put up in 1859.

Burton-on-Trent is, as all the world knows, the metropolis of beer. Its chief trade has been referred to in the Introduction. Although the town is now almost wholly commercialized and modern, it possesses a history which by no means lacks interest. The earliest recorded event in its annals is the erection of a church by St Modwen, an Irish lady, on the bank of the Trent opposite to the present parish church. This seems to have taken place about the year 900, and it is probable that the church was soon afterwards destroyed by the Danes. In 1002 Wulfric Spot, or Sprot, Earl of Mercia, founded a Benedictine Abbey at Burton which he dedicated to St Mary and St Modwen, and in its cloisters both he and his wife Ealhswith were buried. By his will he endowed it with no less than seventy-two manors; it fared well at

the hands of the Conqueror, and throughout its history dominated most of the neighbourhood.

In March 1322 the forces of Edward II. and Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, met in the town. The Earl established himself upon the bridge over the river, and for three days successfully resisted all the king's attempts to cross into Staffordshire. The royal forces then found a passage at Walton-on-Trent, higher up the river, and the Earl, hearing of it, burnt the town and retreated to his castle at Tutbury.

The Abbey was the only one in Staffordshire which came within the category of the greater houses (except perhaps Tutbury), and was thus the last in the county to be surrendered. The vestiges of the once splendid buildings are unfortunately extraordinarily slight; they chiefly consist of one of the three gateways of the enclosing wall, with its porter's lodge, the lower portion of a fine Dec. doorway, and a few moulded fragments (chiefly Norman) preserved in the grounds of the house called the Abbey. Of the monuments from its church there remains an alabaster effigy of a knight in mail; there are also several stone coffins. The Abbey church, after the surrender, was spared for a few years in the form of a collegiate church, but in 1549 it and most of the possessions of the house were secured by Sir William Paget (ancestor of the present Marquis of Anglesey), a most successful courtier of Henry VIII. It was eventually pulled down and rebuilt in a "classical" style in 1719-26, this building being now the parish church (St Modwen's). The only ancient relics which it contains are a Perp. font and some alabaster slabs in the S. porch.

The town's chief trouble in the past has been the constant floods, caused by the Trent overflowing its banks; in 1514 many of the houses were entirely

swept away, and so lately as 1875 two men were actually drowned in the streets. It suffered an irreparable loss in the entire destruction of its fine old mediæval bridge in order to make way for a new one in 1864.

St Paul's church, built at the expense of Mr M. T. Bass, and completed in 1874, is a remarkably good and imposing specimen of a modern church. It is cruciform in plan, with a central tower, and the interior is richly adorned.

Bushbury lies 3 m. from Wolverhampton Stat. The name is properly Bishopsbury. The bricks and mortar of Wolverhampton are encroaching upon the lower end of the parish, but the church (St Mary) is still in quite rural surroundings. It is mainly Dec., but has been much enlarged. In the chancel are sedilia and a piscina, and beneath a founder's arch is the worn stone effigy of a priest, said to be one Hugh de Byshbury. In the centre window of the S. side of the chancel are two small figures in ancient glass, one of which is said to represent the founder. On the wall of the S. aisle is a monument to Thomas Whitgreave, of Moseley Old Hall, the preserver of Charles II. The ivy-clad tower is picturesque, and possesses a Perp. W. window — a somewhat unusual feature in a church of the size. For lovers of George Borrow's "Romany Rye" the church has a peculiar interest, for it was here that Borrow and his gypsy friends one Sunday came to service (the episode is related in Chapter VIII. of the book). The accuracy of Borrow's description is very striking; the beech trees in the churchyard, the small door in the chancel (this is now disused), and the very benches for the poor at the W. end which were rejected by Mrs Petulengro, are all to be seen to-day.

Borrow's memory must have been marvellous, for "Romany Rye" was not written till twenty-seven or twenty-eight years after 1825, the year in which the events took place, and it is unlikely that he ever visited the church again.

About a mile and a half away from the church stands Moseley Old Hall, a house with famous historical associations. Unfortunately it now presents externally a most uninteresting appearance, the fine timbered exterior having been entirely cased in red brick, but inside it remains practically as it was in 1651. It is now occupied as a farmhouse, but at that date was the residence of the local squire, Thomas Whitgreave, a Roman Catholic, the chief members of whose household were his mother, his chaplain, Father John Huddleston, and three boys, pupils of the latter. On the night following the defeat of Charles II.'s forces at Worcester (Wednesday, 3rd September 1651), Lord Wilmot, one of the Royalist fugitives, arrived at Moseley from Whiteladies (some 10 m. distant), whither Charles with a small party had escaped. Lord Wilmot remained at Moseley till midnight on Saturday, when he was sent on to the house of another sympathiser, Colonel Lane of Bentley Hall. Early on the morning of Sunday the 7th, John Penderel, who had acted as Lord Wilmot's guide, arrived at Moseley once more "with a frightful countenance and much impetuosity," to say that Charles had tried to make his way into Wales, but had found the Severn too closely guarded, and was back at Boscobel, and that his protectors were at their wits' end how to dispose of him. Whitgreave, Huddleston, and Penderel at once rode over to Bentley, where it was decided that Penderel should return to Boscobel and fetch the King, Lord Wilmot coming back to Moseley

to wait on his majesty. Charles duly arrived soon after dusk the same evening, attended by all five Penderel brothers and Francis Yates of Langley Lawn, but they all, except John Penderel, at once returned. The King's disguise was complete: "a long, white, steeple-crowned hat without any other lining than grease, a leather doublet full of holes, an old green wood-reeve's coat, threadbare and patched, breeches of the same cloth, hose and shoes of different parishes." His hair, moreover, was cut short, and his face browned with walnut leaves; no wonder that Whitgreave could not tell which he was. His feet were dried and warmed by Father Huddleston, and he was provided with fresh linen and given a bed (the bed still remains) in the oak-panelled room called "the King's Bedroom." The servants were told merely that a cavalier fugitive had arrived, and the next morning all except the cook were given employment outside the house, while the three boys were placed as sentinels at the garret windows. The plan was that the King should take advantage of a pass which Colonel Lane's sister Jane had obtained for herself and a servant to go through to Bristol. The King spent the Monday resting, and during the day saw from the window of Mr Whitgreave's study (the little room over the porch) many fugitive soldiers passing along the road, starving and wounded. At night Lord Wilmot's horses arrived and he returned with them to Bentley. On the Tuesday morning the King had much conversation with Huddleston, and was shown the private chapel up in the garret. Being apparently in an unusually sober frame of mind, he also read two Roman Catholic books of devotion, one of which he put in his pocket to take with him. But in the afternoon there was a sudden alarm caused by the approach of a

party of soldiers under one Southall, a notorious priest-catcher, and Charles, who was lying on his bed, was hastily thrust into a hiding-place (still existing) under the floor of a small cupboard adjoining one of the bedrooms. Whitgreave, with the object of preventing a search, went at once to the soldiers, and was roughly handled by them, but they had only come to arrest him on suspicion of having fought in the battle, and, as he was able to show that he had been at home sick at the time, they at length departed. Colonel Lane arrived with the horses about midnight, and the King left for Bentley, with many expressions of gratitude to his hosts, and promising them, "If it please God I come to my crown, both you and all of your persuasion shall have as much liberty as any of my subjects." Huddleston carefully preserved as relics a handkerchief of the King's, and the coarse shirt which he had worn on his arrival, and these are now in the possession of the Riddells of Northumberland (the present representatives of Huddleston's family). After the Restoration he became chaplain to the Queen, and administered the last rites to Charles. It is pleasant to remember that the King's gratitude was lasting, and that in 1666 a perpetual annuity of £200 was granted to Whitgreave and his son.

Butterton (on the moors) is a village on the river Manifold. The church (St Bartholomew) was rebuilt in 1872.

Butterton (3 m. from Newcastle) became a parish in 1845, and has a modern church.

Calton (1 m. from Waterhouses Stat.) became a parish in 1902, having previously been a donative chapelry. The church (St Mary) is wholly modern.

Cannock is now an outlying town of the Black Country, but was once a spa of some little celebrity.

The name is a Celtic one, meaning "high place," and is the same word which constantly appears in Irish names in the form of "knock." The tower and W. end of the nave of the church (St Luke) are of good Perp. workmanship, the E. end of the nave and the chancel being a skilful modern addition of 1882. The 18th cent., unfortunately, did its best to spoil the old work; it inserted a "classical" S. doorway, and the internal effect is still ruined by the presence of galleries. Dr Sacheverell, the Tory and High Church hero of 1710, held his first curacy in this parish. On the Watling Street about half a mile away is an inn called "The Four Crosses," half of which is half-timbered work, bearing the date 1636. On a beam over one of the windows is a couplet which must have been inscribed by a Puritan of the most unpleasant type:

> "Fleres, si scires unum tua tempora mensem;
> Rides, cum non sit forsitan una dies."

(You would weep if you knew you had but one month to live; you laugh, when perchance you have not one day.)

Swift is said to have rested at the inn on his journeys between London and Ireland, and to have liked his hostess so little that he wrote on a window with a diamond:

> "Thou fool, to hang four crosses at the door!
> Hang up thy wife; there needs not any more."

Cannock Chase is still a great and very charming expanse of high moorland, but it is merely a small shred of the enormous Forest of Cannock—"great Arden's eldest child," as Michael Drayton styled it—which in mediæval times covered the whole country between

Stafford and Tamworth in one direction and between Stafford and Walsall in another, with the exception of the clearing in which stood the city of Lichfield. It was a Royal Forest, in charge of a chief forester or seneschal with assistant foresters and verderers, and for administrative purposes was divided into the seven hays, or bailiwicks, of Gailey, Teddesley, Ogley, Cheslyn, Bentley, Hopwas, and Alrewas. Wolves survived in it as late as the reign of Edward I., for there is a record in the Pleas of the Forest of a buck being killed in the forest by a wolf in the year 1280. These Pleas abound in the record of prosecutions of the forest poachers, who came of all classes, from noblemen and parsons to the poorest of the poor. Nor did the squires of the day, or some of the less scrupulous of them, stop short at deer-stealing. A petition filed in the reign of Edward III. lets in an extraordinary light upon 14th cent. manners. In the year 1342, it seems, certain Lichfield merchants sent two servants with two horses laden with "spicery and mercery" to Stafford for the next market-day. But "beneath Cannock Wood" they found Sir Robert de Ridware, with two squires, lying in wait for travellers; they and their horses and stuff were seized, and their captors set off for (of all places) the *priory* at Lapley. One of the servants, however, escaped by the way. At the priory the knightly robber met others of his kin—Sir John de Oddyngesles, and others, some of the rest being knights also—and, in accordance apparently with previous arrangement, the booty was shared, "each one a portion according to his degree." Thence Sir Robert and several of his friends rode the same day to the nunnery at Blythebury, and when the abbess refused him accommodation, the knight, nothing abashed, broke the barns, and took by force

ON CANNOCK CHASE

what fodder he required. Meanwhile the escaped servant had roused the Lichfield sheriff and his men, and the next day a small battle resulted, in which at length the sheriff's party prevailed, recovering the merchandise and taking four prisoners, whom they beheaded on the spot. But the pertinacious Sir Robert was by no means thus disposed of; he enlisted his relative, Walter de Ridware, lord of Hamstall Ridware, and with a fresh force attacked the Sheriff on his way back to Lichfield, worsted him, and recovered the booty. Nor could the petitioners resort to justice, for when they went to Stafford for the purpose some time later, they found the gates of the town barred by Ridware's retainers, and "hardly escaped without grievous hurt." Staffordshire was evidently no place for law-abiding men.

Cannock Chase originated in a purchase made from Richard I., at a time when he was raising money for his crusade, by Hugh de Nonant, Bishop of Lichfield. It has been curtailed by the formation of several parks, by the operation of Enclosure Acts, and by the opening of coal-pits over its southern parts; but nevertheless it remains one of the largest and most delightful of English heaths. To speak precisely, it consists of about 25 sq. m. of beautiful high moor stretching from Milford and Brocton on the W. to Brereton and Beaudesert Park on the E. The Earl of Lichfield, whose seat is at Shugborough Park, is the lord of the manor of its western portions, and the Marquis of Anglesey, who lives at Beaudesert, of its eastern side. Its scenery is very diverse; it is a region of swelling hills parted by deep gullies, often containing pretty streamlets, and is covered in parts by bracken, in parts by heath, and in other parts by pretty groves of birch and small timber, while many of the summits

are crowned by fine groups of aged pines. Red grouse breed upon it, and there are a number of deer belonging to one or other of the manorial lords.

On the borders of the Chase there are the parks of Wolseley, Hagley, Beaudesert, and Teddesley. Wolseley is still, as it has been for some eight centuries, the seat of the Wolseleys. The family has held a baronetcy since 1628, and has produced several men of note, of whom the most distinguished are Sir Charles (1630-1714), the second baronet, who was a prominent Parliamentarian and a personal friend of the Protector; his brother William (1640-1697), who distinguished himself in William III.'s Irish campaigns against James II.'s forces; Sir Charles (1769-1846), the seventh baronet, who was a leader of the extreme radicals in the Reform movement, and suffered imprisonment for the part he played; and the present Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley, who comes of a younger branch of the family.

Hagley Park is a smaller park belonging to the Marquis of Anglesey (Paget family). Beaudesert Hall, one of his chief residences, a handsome, somewhat rambling building of brick, was seriously damaged by fire in November 1909. The front or main portions were built by Thomas, Lord Paget, about 1600, but it incorporates parts of an older building, partly of the 14th cent., which was the palace of the Bishops of Lichfield. Alterations and extensions were made in the early 19th cent. by the "Waterloo Marquis," under the direction of Wyatt. There was formerly, as usual, a gatehouse, with a containing wall and angle-turrets, but these have been destroyed. Just inside the Park, adjoining the South Lodge, is the fine prehistoric fort called Castle Ring. It is five-sided, 8½ acres in area, and is protected on three sides by

two sets of ramparts and fosses, and on the other two by three sets. In the N.-W. corner are some remains of the stone foundation of a building, which is supposed to have been built by one of the early bishops of Lichfield.

Teddesley Park is the seat of Lord Hatherton (Littleton family), who has been said to possess "one of the ugliest houses and one of the finest parks in England."

At *Canwell* (5 m. from Tamworth), on the Warwickshire border, stood a small Benedictine priory founded by Geoffrey Ridel in the 12th cent., but there are practically no remains.

Castlechurch. See *Stafford.*

Cauldon has a station on the Manifold Valley Light-Railway. Cauldon Low is a hill of ruddy limestone rock, which is gradually disappearing through quarrying operations. The church (St Mary and St Lawrence) was rebuilt in the late 18th cent.

Caverswall is 1 m. from Blythe Bridge Stat. Of the church (St Peter) the nave arcades have shafts of the 14th and arches of the 17th centuries; they seem curiously cut off short by the tower. The latter is Dec. with an inserted Perp. W. window of good design. Both aisles are mainly Dec., and the chancel is E.E., but has been much modernized. The altar-table (dated 1633), the pulpit, and a few of the pews are Jacobean. In the chancel are some ancient defaced monumental slabs, and there is a mural monument to Matthew Cradock (1641), the builder of the present Caverswall Castle. A monument to Lady St Vincent (1816) is surmounted by one of Chantrey's graceful kneeling figures.

Caverswall Castle is an excellent example of a castellated Jacobean manor-house. The first castle on the

site is said to have been built by William de Caverswall in the reign of Edward II., and the present castle mound and the moat are no doubt works of that period. This castle, however, fell into disrepair in the 16th cent., and in the reign of James I. was sold to Matthew Cradock, a self-made Staffordshire man of some note in his day. He seems to have been a native of Stafford, and was mayor of that town in 1614, but shortly afterwards took a house in London, interested himself eagerly in colonial ventures, and became first chairman of the Massachusetts Company. In 1640 he was returned to the Long Parliament as member for London, and in the House showed strong Parliamentarian leanings. He died suddenly the next year, when he seemed marked out to take a prominent part in the national struggle. During the war the castle was strongly garrisoned for the Parliament, and seems never to have been seriously attacked. Save for the addition of a new wing, admirably in keeping with the rest, it remains very much as it originally was. The towers which stand at each corner of the front terrace are a handsome feature, and the house as a whole is of a massive strength unusual for its period.

Chapel Chorlton is a small village 2½ m. from Standon Bridge Stat. The "chapel" or church (St Lawrence) which serves to distinguish it from the neighbouring village of Hill Chorlton, was rebuilt in a tasteless fashion in 1827, with the exception of the tower, and this was so mauled that it is difficult to fix its date. However, there remain three church accessories of some interest: an early, possibly Norman, font; a pre-Reformation bell with the usual legend, "Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum"; and a Jacobean oak pulpit.

Chartley is a village of considerable interest through

the historical associations of its Castle and Hall. It was granted by William Rufus to Hugh Lupus, first Earl of Chester, whose descendant, Ranulph, on his return from the Crusades, about 1220, built himself a castle there, about the same time as he built that at Beeston in Cheshire. Practically the only remains of Chartley Castle are two great ivy-covered round towers, now fast crumbling away, which formed part of the outer wall, but the very considerable earthworks (doubtless earlier than the castle) may easily be traced. The walls of the towers are about 12 feet thick, and pierced with slits for archers. A cross incised on one commemorates the earl's recent visit to Palestine. On his death in 1231, the manor passed by marriage to the great family of Ferrers, the Earls of Derby. The family fortunes were ruined in 1266 (see under Tutbury), but John Ferrers, son of Robert, the last Earl, succeeded in retaining Chartley, and was eventually created baron of that place. In 1460 the estate passed again by marriage to the Devereux—a famous name. Walter Devereux came into prominence through his attempts to conquer and colonize Ulster, and was created Earl of Essex in 1572. At Chartley Hall his Countess royally entertained the Queen and her suite in the summer of 1575. His son Robert, of tragic memory, succeeded him a year later, and was from the first in the thick of public affairs. In January 1586, when he was only eighteen, Mary Queen of Scots was, despite his strong protests, brought from Tutbury to Chartley Hall, under the rigorous guardianship of Sir Amyas Paulet, who considered Chartley a more secure prison, owing to its being protected by a moat filled with water. It was here that in the following months Mary's miseries reached a climax. Anthony Babington and his fellow conspirators contrived to send

her word of their designs, and she would have bee more than human if, after so many years of wretchednes she had not clutched at the chance of freedom ; but th whole affair was betrayed by the spy, Gilbert Giffard Mary was removed to Tixall for a fortnight on a pretex and in her absence all her papers were examined. Th conspirators were executed, and Mary's last removal— to Fotheringhay—took place on 24th September 1586 and three weeks later she was there tried and found guilty

With the subsequent career of Essex, as Elizabeth' darling, as commander in Ireland, and as open rebe against the Government, Chartley was not much con cerned, but it was there that Essex's son, Robert, th third Earl, passed the early portion of his marriec life with his appalling wife, and there he mostly livec during the thirty years between 1612, when his wife with the king's aid procured a divorce from him, and 1642, when he became first commander-in-chief of the Parliamentarian forces. On his death in 1646, Chartley passed in right of his daughter to the Shirley family, for whom the earldom of Ferrers was created in 1711. A later earl was in 1845 the victim of one of the most extraordinary legal actions on record. A suit for breach of promise was instituted against him by a certain Miss Mary Smith, a young lady of consider- able beauty, who lived close to Chartley. At the hearing the Solicitor-General of the day produced on her behalf a series of ardent love-letters from the earl, and it was only after the trial had extended over four days that he was convinced that from beginning to end they were fabrications written by the ingenious girl herself. The case is said to have cost the unfortunate earl close upon £5000. It is a pity to have to record that Chartley was sold in 1905 for the first time since the Conquest.

CHEADLE: OLD HOUSES IN HIGH STREET

The Hall, in which Queen Mary was confined, was a splendid half-timbered mansion, but it was burnt down in 1781. It is an unhappy chance which has destroyed all the three Staffordshire houses which served as the prisons of the Queen. Besides the remains of the castle, however, Chartley still has its eight-hundred-acre park, a noble expanse of high uncultivated ground which was for nearly seven hundred years the home of the famous herd of semi-wild white cattle (for these, see Introduction, page 9). There are also several good half-timbered houses in the village and neighbourhood.

Chasetown is a mining district on Cannock Chase, about 1½ m. from Brownhills Stat. It came into being with the opening of collieries on the Chase in 1849, and became a parish in 1867.

Cheadle is a market-town which contains a couple of mills, and has a small coalfield of its own. Its old church (St Giles) was barbarously razed to the ground in 1837, and the only relics which its successor contains are the parish chest and the communion rails (dated 1686). The Roman Catholic church (built in 1846) is one of the finest examples of the Neo-Gothic work of A. W. Pugin, and has a beautiful soaring spire. There is in the High Street a very handsome three-gabled Tudor house, which emerged from beneath a covering of plaster so lately as 1907, and the steps and shaft of the old market-cross remain, though the latter is quite spoilt by being coated with paint and forced to do duty as a lamp-post. A little outside the town are two interesting 17th cent. farm-houses, built of stone, the one called the Mill House and the other Long Croft.

The town stands on a small hill, and is surrounded by other hills on almost every side. These and the

abundant woods make the district one of the most attractive in Staffordshire for walking expeditions.

Chebsey (Ceobba's isle) is a small village 1½ m. from Norton Bridge Stat. The church (All Saints) is an interesting little building whose parts are of very diverse dates. In the churchyard is a carved Saxon cross-shaft, cylindrical at the base, but rectangular above. The earliest portion of the building is the north wall of the nave and chancel, which contains two Norman doorways and Norman windows of the usual narrow type. The existence of two doorways within the space of a few feet is curious, and probably due to an extension of the nave westwards. The arcade and chancel arch are E.E., and the remaining windows Perp. The tower, also Perp., is one of the few in the county with an outside stair turret running to the top. The carving upon the Perp. features is remarkably good for its period. The S. porch is a quaint addition of 1707. Three of the bells are of pre-Reformation date, two inscribed to St Mary and one to St Helena. Altogether the church will well repay a visit.

Checkley (2½ m. from Leigh Stat.) is a small village which possesses the finest church (St Mary and All Saints) in the north of the county. The church is known to be the mother-church of all the parishes for some miles round, and the early date of the religious associations of its site is independently proved by the two fine fragments of Saxon cross-shafts which remain in the churchyard. Both are rectangular, the one differing from the other chiefly in having curved instead of straight lines of moulding. The former is remarkable in having on two of its faces series of three human figures side by side. Those on the west face wear nimbi, and have their bodies formed of plaitwork

CHECKLEY CHURCH

Whom they are intended to represent is quite unknown; the local tradition is that they are three bishops who fell in a battle between the Saxons and the Danes at "Deadman's Green" (a spot close by). The other cross has on the west face a representation of the Crucifixion, and below it three figures again.

The church itself has a tower which is Norman in the lower stages, and Perp. in the topmost. Of the nave the S. arcade is Trans. and the N. arcade and aisle E.E. The S. doorway is a fine example of Dec. work, adorned with large ball-flowers. The porch and windows of the S. aisle and the present roof and the clerestory are of the 17th cent. In the S. aisle is an effigy of a knight, probably of the 13th cent.; he is thought to be a member of the family of Beke, who were the early lords of Checkley. The font is an early Norman (or Saxon) one, with a figure of the Agnus Dei. All these features are of considerable interest, but the most splendid portion of the church is the chancel—as rich and perfect an example of Dec. work of the reign of Edward III. as is to be found in any parish church in England. The whole of its details, and especially the window tracery with its beautiful bosses at the intersections, deserves careful study. The ancient glass in the E. window and in the easternmost N. and S. windows is probably early Flemish work contemporary with the chancel. The subjects represented in the E. window are, reading from R. to L., (lower series): murder of St Thomas of Canterbury; St Margaret exorcising the Dragon; the Crucifixion; Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac; the stoning of St Stephen by the Jews; (upper series): St Nicholas, St Thomas Didymus, St Thomas of Canterbury, St John, a Bishop of Lichfield. In the N.

window are St James, Madonna and Child, and Sanctus Clericus Isgrorc (*sic*), and in the S. window Moses with tables of law, St John, and St Simon. The sedilia are remarkable for being without heads. The chancel stalls are of fine workmanship, and have the folded linen pattern; they bear in one place the initials A. D., those of Anthony Draycott, rector of Checkley from 1535 to 1560, who erected them. (He is further mentioned under Draycott-in-the-Moors.) The chancel also contains a table-tomb with effigies of Godfrey and Margaret Foljambe (1560).

Cheddleton lies in the Churnet Valley, among beautiful scenery. The church (Edward the Confessor) was until 1450 a chapel of Leek, and has the same dedication as its mother church. The tower bears on its parapet the date 1574. The S. arcade of the nave is probably 13th-cent. work; that on the N. has been rebuilt. Both aisles are Perp. The best part of the church is the Dec. chancel, though it suffers from the loss of the chancel arch, which seems to have been destroyed as early as the 16th cent. The E. window is a fine one. The doorway to the rood-loft remains, and a piscina and sedilia, with ball-flower ornament. The oak reredos is a German or Flemish piece, probably of the 15th cent.; the centre panel only is old work. The brass eagle lectern is also an importation, believed to be mediæval work from Belgium. There is some good modern glass, some of it designed by Rossetti and Burne-Jones.

The churchyard cross has been elaborately restored; the clustered shaft is ancient. Part of the village stocks remains on the outside of the eastern wall of the churchyard.

At Basford Smithy, close to Cheddleton Railway Stat., are the remains of a wayside cross.

Chell (Great and Little) form a township with a station at Pitts Hill, and a church, built in 1894.

Cheslyn Hay is a mining village near Wyrley Stat. Its name is that of one of the divisions of the Forest of Cannock.

Chesterton is a large colliery village, 2 m. from Newcastle-under-Lyme. Its name proves it to be a Roman site, which is believed to be the Mediolanum of the Itinerary of Antoninus. The site of the camp from which the place derives its name occupies a commanding position off Newcastle Street, but the fosse on the N.-W. side is the only part which remains in anything like its original form. An old lane and the street itself probably represent two more sides; if so the total area must have been about 23 acres. In Erdeswicke's time (1600) there were remains of masonry to be seen (probably of a castle built in the camp soon after the Conquest), but these are now quite gone, and there is no record of any relics having been discovered.

Church Eaton (2 m. from Gnosall) is a scattered village, so called to distinguish it from the neighbouring hamlets of Water Eaton and Wood Eaton. "Eaton" means the "dwelling on the stream." The church (St Editha) was most carefully restored by Mr C. Lynam in 1886. The tower is a good example of Trans. work, surmounted by a Perp. spire. The tower arch is so very nearly round that its point is barely discernible. The N. arcade of the nave is also Trans. The Perp. E. window is remarkable for the reason that it occupies the whole of the E. end of the church. The font in use is modern, but the church contains the fragments of a good Norman "tub" font, which it is pleasant to hear there is some idea of re-erecting. There is much good modern glass.

The Churnet Valley. Outside the limits of Staffordshire the exquisite scenery of the Churnet Valley is scarcely known, but though the Churnet cannot vie with other rivers in point of size, in beauty of setting it would be hard to surpass its course from Cheddleton to Denstone. Between these villages it runs through a deep valley, the sides of which rise steeply upward beneath a rich mantle of trees, here and there a sharp elbow of rock bursting through the greenery, or the trees breaking away to reveal a sheer natural rampart. For the greater portion of its length the valley is, curiously enough, quite without a road, though there are both railway and canal, and gaily painted barges often add a picturesque note to the scene. The only way to see its upper lengths properly is to walk along the towing path. All the way from Cheddleton, through Consall Forge to Froghall, where the canal ends, the valley is very charming, but, unhappily, at Froghall and at Oakamoor its loveliness is momentarily interrupted, not through any fault of nature, but by the smoke and din of the great copper wire works which have been established there. Between Oakamoor and Alton the only roadway of the valley—the "Red Road"—runs. At Alton the dale takes almost the character of Rhine scenery, for a steep escarpment of rock is crowned by the castle, which stands up grandly against the sky, looking across to the fir-clad heights on which stands Alton Towers, and its prominent flag tower. Beyond Alton the valley broadens somewhat, and between here and Denstone lies one of its most peaceful and idyllic stretches, traversed only by a foot-path and an unobtrusive railway line.

Clayton is a small village 2 m. from Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Clifton Campville is a small village on the border

CHURNET VALLEY AT ALTON

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE CHURCH

of Leicestershire, 4 m. from Haselour Stat. The Campvilles were its early lords. Its church (St Andrew) is in almost every respect one of the noblest churches in the county. It consists of tower with spire, nave with N. transept, S. aisle and S. porch, and chancel with S. chapel. The N. transept and much of the N. wall are remaining portions of the cruciform E.E. church, and the rest of the building is fine Dec. work of various dates during the reign of Edward III. The remarkable thing is that after that date it remained practically untouched until the early 18th cent., which is responsible for the foolish addition of a red-brick N. porch, and for what a contemporary inscription in the nave calls "beautifying" the interior (*i.e.* plastering it!). Fortunately neither of these vandalistic performances is irremediable, but the whole church is in sore need of the judicious restoration which is now in progress.

The tower and spire (*c.* 1365) were probably the last portion of the building to be erected. Both are beautifully slim in their proportions, and the flying buttresses at the base of the spire are effective. The nave was mainly rebuilt in 1350 or thereabouts, the S. transept being then thrown into the S. or Haunton aisle, which was added for the use of the inhabitants of Haunton, a village in the parish. The E.E. N. wall of the nave partly remains, with Dec. windows inserted. It retains an arched recess, containing the original stone coffin, but the tomb which should be in the later recess in the S. aisle is gone.

Of the N. transept, or chantry, Mr Caroe writes: "This is a singularly interesting and beautiful example of the later work of the 13th century, and probably has few rivals." On the ground floor is a chapel with a vaulted roof, with an arched recess for an altar in its

E. wall, and over it is a priest's chamber, containing a fireplace and a ventilated closet or garderobe. The chapel is lighted by a small lancet, and by two five-light circular-headed windows which, as Mr Caroe says, are "of most graceful form, and detail as unusual as it is excellent." They are evidently skilfully introduced insertions of the Dec. period. In the priest's chamber the original windows remain.

The spacious chancel is wholly Dec. save for a single lancet window in the N. wall. The large E. window has some fine tracery, and the piscina and sedilia remain. There are some well-carved stalls and a screen, of extremely good work (*c.* 1500), with doors of a later date bearing the inscription: "Master Gilbert, Parson of Clifton in the yeare of our Lord 1634."

The S. chapel was probably the earliest addition to the church. It retains its piscina, and has a parclose screen, of which a part also bears the date 1634, though it is mostly of earlier date and poor workmanship. In this chapel is a table-tomb with effigies of Sir John Vernon (1545) and his wife Ellen. He was a lawyer by profession, and a King's Counsel in Wales.

Codsall is a village which has become a popular place of residence for Wolverhampton business men. The church (St Nicholas) was rebuilt in 1848, with the exception of the low Dec. tower. An interesting Norman S. doorway was, however, built into the new church, and in the chancel is preserved the painted and gilded table-tomb of Walter Wrottesley (1630), with three sons and two daughters. An unusual feature about the tomb is that it has not the effigies of the wives of its subject, who lies in lonely state.

Colton is 2 m. from Rugeley Stat. Its name seems to mean "cold-town." The Church (St Mary) was rebuilt by Mr. G. E. Street in 1851, with the exception

of the old tower, the west end of the S. nave aisle and the S. chapel, which are simple E.E. work.

Colwich church (St Michael) is of little interest. It retains an E.E. arcade, but the interior is spoilt by being plastered and painted. The tower bears the date 1640, and is of creditable work for that period. There is a table-tomb with effigy of Sir Robert Wolseley of Wolseley (1646). Lord Anson, the admiral, was also buried in the church in 1762, but he is commemorated only by a modern brass. There is a tablet to James Trubshaw (1853), a local "architect," who is responsible for having spoiled several Staffordshire churches.

Coppenhall (3 m. from Stafford) is a hamlet with a very simple but interesting little E.E. church (St Lawrence), anciently a chapel of Bradeley, but now attached to Dunston. The windows throughout are the original small lancets, splayed both inside and out. The church has never had either aisle or tower.

Coseley is a typical Black Country town, formed into a parish in 1832. Its population in 1901 was 22,219.

Cotes Heath ($\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Standon Bridge Stat.) is a parish formed in 1844 out of the parish of Eccleshall.

Cotton is a moorland township (in Alton parish) 1 m. from Oakamoor Stat. It contains a Roman Catholic college, dedicated to St Wilfrid, for the education of boys. The church belonging to it was built about 1848 from designs by A. W. Pugin.

Coven is a parish formed in 1858, with a station at Four Ashes.

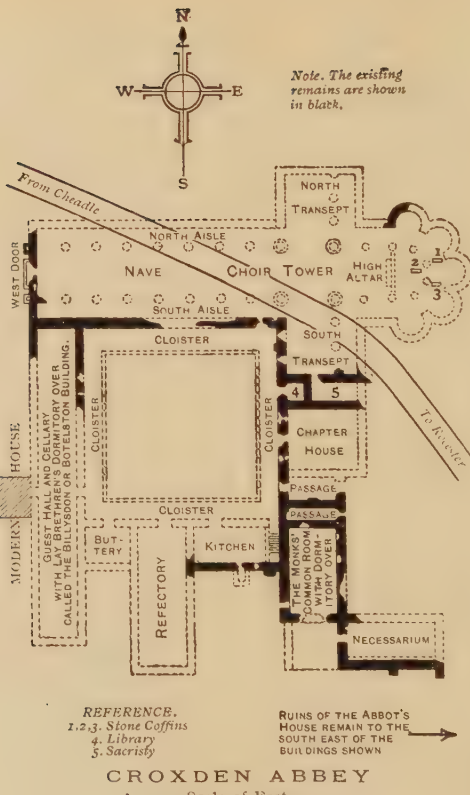
Cradley Heath, on the Worcestershire border, is a town which has gained some unfortunate notoriety through the hardships of its female chain-makers. The church was built in 1847.

Creswell is 2 m. from Stafford. The parish is a very small one, but is a separate rectory. The church stands in an open field, and has long been in ruins. The only portions which remain are the N. and E. walls of the chancel. The former has two E.E. lancet windows, and the latter is apparently of the 15th cent.

Croxall was in Derbyshire until a Local Government Board Order of 1894 altered the county boundaries. It consists only of a few scattered houses. The church (St John the Baptist) has a low tower which is E.E. below and Perp. above. The chancel is chiefly Dec., and has a low side window in the S. wall. The interior is somewhat marred by being plastered and painted, but the chancel floor is a remarkably fine series of stone slabs with incised figures. In order of date they represent (1) Thomas and Margaret Curson, 1485; (2) John and Mary, their children; (3) William, son of the next mentioned, 1487; (4) John and Anna Curson, 1500 and 1514—this stone is fragmentary; (5) William and Elena Shepherd of Okeley, 1500; (6) John Horton of Calton and his wife Anne (Curzon), 1521; (7) George and Katherine Curzon, 1605. The last is an exceptionally late specimen of this kind of memorial. Under the tower there is an eighth slab to a child, John Howes of Okeley (1554). A most excellent history, by the Rev. R. Ussher, of this parish and church, with plates of all the incised slabs, was published in 1881.

Croxden Abbey is 2 m. from Alton Stat. As the termination "den" indicates, it lies, like almost all abbeys, in a valley. The ruins are decidedly the most extensive monastic ruins in the county. The house was of the Cistercian order, and dedicated to St Mary, and was founded in 1176 by Bertram de

CROXDEN ABBEY: RUINS OF SOUTH TRANSEPT AND CLOISTERS



REFERENCE.
1, 2, 3. Stone Coffins
4. Library
5. Sacristy

RUINS OF THE ABBOT'S HOUSE REMAIN TO THE SOUTH EAST OF THE BUILDINGS SHOWN

CROXDEN ABBEY

Scale of Feet

0 10 20 30 40 50 100

Verdun, the builder of Alton Castle. It was at first settled, however, at a place (of doubtful identity) called "Chotes"; the removal to Croxden took place in 1179. The Chronicle of the Abbey, principally compiled by a monk called William de Shepesheved, is extant in the British Museum, and contains among other things some invaluable records of the dates of the erection of the Abbey buildings. (Since the first edition of this Guide was published a Monograph on the subject of the Abbey of St Mary, Croxden, has been brought out by Mr Charles Lynam, F.S.A., which contains a translation of parts of the Chronicle relating to the Abbey.) The Abbey Church was not dedicated until 1254, its completion taking place during the abbacy of Walter London, who, during his years of office (1242-1268), did much building, apparently the only important works erected after his time being the Abbot's House, built under William de Howton (Abbot, 1268-1274), and the Guest Hall or Billysdon Building, so called after its builder, John de Billysdon (Abbot, 1284-1293). Part of this building, we are told, fell down in 1369 and had to be rebuilt. At the date of the Dissolution there were twelve monks at Croxden besides the Abbot, Thomas Chawner. The Abbey, after being despoiled, was granted to a dissolute adventurer named Geoffrey Foljambe,[1] but he sold it, and, as Sir Simon Degge observes with satisfaction, "died a beggar in a barn." It nows belongs to the Earl of Macclesfield. The finest remaining portion of the Abbey Church is the W. front, a very pure example of E.E. work, with a beautiful doorway and three lofty lancet windows; a battered crucifix and the effigy of a knight are preserved beside the door, and there are some interesting tiles in a recess

[1] It is not quite clear to which of the Foljambes this refers—father or son. Lord Macclesfield has now sold the property to a Mr Verdin.

near. The remains of the half columns on the inside of the W. wall show the character of the nave arcades. The fragment of a round apse on the further side of the highway which now crosses the nave, is significant, for it proves that the E. end must have consisted of five such apses—a most unusual arrangement in an English church. Three stone coffins still remain in what was the Lady Chapel; probably they contained the remains of some members of the De Verdun family, or of the Furnival family, who succeeded them. After the church the best feature in the ruins is the W. front of the Chapter House, with its handsome arcade of three bays, the middle arch forming the doorway, and the outer arches windows, into the cloisters. Croxden has in recent years suffered an irreparable loss. By a most lamentable error of judgment the *capella extra portas* of the Abbey, which was used as the parish church until 1885, was in that year pulled down and the present uninteresting building put up on its site.

Croxton (4 m. from Standon Bridge Stat.) became a parish in 1857.

The *Dane* river forms the north-eastern boundary of the county for some eight miles from its source to a point near the prominent hill called Cloud End, and, like the other streams of the moorlands, it has carved out for itself a deep valley of very great beauty. It is a tributary of the river Weaver, and so falls eventually into the Mersey; but so delicately are the watersheds of the Mersey and the Humber divided hereabouts that some of the water of the Dane is actually transferred, by means of a canal "feeder," into the large reservoir at Rudyard, so that it ultimately reaches the North Sea instead of the Irish Sea. The river runs for the first five or six miles of its course through some splendidly

IN THE DANE VALLEY

wild scenery, past Gradbach Hill, Goldsitch Moss, the Back Forest, and Ludchurch, on the Staffordshire side, but much of the country here is private property, and it will be well to obtain permission to walk up or down the side of the stream. Below the hamlet of Danebridge, however, there is a public footpath, and the walk beside the stream between this point and Rushton Spencer, between the rocky, tree-clad sides of the valley, is delightful.

Darlaston is a Black Country town which had, in 1901, a population of 15,395. The parish is an ancient one, but the church (St Lawrence) is practically wholly modern. The town manufactures all kinds of wrought and cast-iron work.

At *Denstone* is the well-known *Woodard* boys' school. This is Denstone College (opened 1873), one of the group of Church schools founded under the scheme originated by Canon Woodard. It owes its existence chiefly to the liberality of Sir T. P. Heywood, who not only gave the fine site on which it stands, but contributed largely to the cost of the buildings.

Dilhorn (2 m. from Blythe Bridge Stat.) has a church (All Saints') which possesses the only wholly octagonal tower in the county. Such towers are indeed extremely rare throughout the Midlands. It is remarkably plain and sturdy, consisting of three storeys, of which the two lower are almost featureless, but seem to be of the 12th or 13th cents. respectively, while the upper one is of the 16th. The E.E. nave arcade also remains, but the aisles were rebuilt at the unfortunate date of 1819, when a clerestory also was added. The chancel was re-erected in the 15th cent. The very plain, slightly oval font is perhaps Norman; the oak altar-table and rails are good work of 1634. There is

a small brass mural inscription (1595) with a doggerel verse commemorating Richard Copwood and his wife Margaret, a daughter of the house of Basset of Blore. The original name of the village was "Dulfern," *i.e.* the place of the diggings. Coal is still got in the parish, and the allusion may be to primitive open workings of coal.

In *Dovedale* is the best-known scenery in Staffordshire, and perhaps, upon the whole, the loveliest, though it would be foolish to dogmatize upon such a point. To be precise, it is only one side of it that belongs to Staffordshire, for the Dove throughout its course forms the boundary which divides the county from Derbyshire. The name Dove is probably simply the Celtic word dwfr (stream)—a derivation supported by its present pronunciation, which makes it rhyme with "rove," though the o becomes short when the word is used as a prefix (as in Dovedale or Doveridge).

The dale is usually approached from Thorpe Stat., whence its lower end is reached by a pretty walk of less than a mile down the gorge named Lindale; but those who can spare the time will do well to walk all the way from Ashbourne (5 m.), along the road to Mappleton, and then along a footpath by the river side, so coming to Dovedale proper by the fine entrance between the twin guardian heights of Bunster and Thorpe Cloud. The most beautiful portion of the Dale is that mile and a half which lies between Lindale and the Dove Holes. Here the steep Staffordshire side is clad from top to base in a rich mantle of lovely trees, with a number of rock-pinnacles jutting out of them, while the Derbyshire side, on which rise limestone cliffs and fantastic rocks, is more intermittently wooded, mainly with gnarled yews and hawthorns, the Dove always murmuring between, past

DOVEDALE: PICKERING TORS

flowery banks and over innumerable tiny weirs. Writer after writer has described it all, but none quite successfully, for it is indeed indescribable. Perhaps Marlowe, in his *Passionate Shepherd*, suggests the scene better than anyone else:

> "Come, live with me, and be my love,
> And we will all the pleasures prove
> That hills or valleys, vales or fields,
> Woods or steepy mountain yields.
>
> There we will sit upon the rocks,
> Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks
> By shallow rivers, to whose falls
> Melodious birds sing madrigals."

This will give those who do not know Dovedale so much of it as can be conveyed on paper, and those who visit it will explore it best for themselves without the assistance of a guide-book. They will do well not to trouble themselves overmuch with the somewhat irritating names which have of late years been applied to all the more remarkable rocks of the Dale. Nevertheless, they should find out the two caverns called "Reynard's Cave" and "Reynard's Kitchen," which are well worth the trouble of the stiff climb up to them, for there is a quite unique view to be had thence through and over a natural rock-archway to the river and the hanging woods on its further side. One group of rocks, as fine as any, has an old name. These are the Pickering Tors, the right-hand extremity of which (looking down the river) has a profile with a remarkable resemblance to a lion's head. Opposite to them is the fine ivy-covered rock-pillar called Ilam Rock.

At the Dove Holes—two large natural caverns—the character of the valley completely changes; and for the whole of the 5 m. which lie between this

point and the entrance to Beresford Dale the Dove flows between gaunt hills, bare (save at one or two points) of any timber except a few thorn-trees. The path, passing beyond the Dove Holes under a hill on the Derbyshire side called "The Nabs," comes in a mile to the hamlet of Milldale. It was here that Viator and Piscator Junior (in Charles Cotton's Second Part of the "Compleat Angler"), riding down from the Derbyshire side, crossed the river by the little bridge which still remains. Its narrowness impressed Viator. "What's here?" he cried to Piscator Junior (Charles Cotton himself). "Do you use to travel with wheel-barrows in this country? This bridge certainly was made for nothing else. Why! a mouse can hardly go over it; 'tis not two fingers broad." The two travellers then took the road to the village of Alstonfield, a mile distant to the left, but those who have a taste for wild scenery and a lonely walk should continue by the river side through that part of the valley which is called Wolfscote Dale, all the way to Beresford Dale. Those, on the other hand, who have to return to the railway, should walk to Lode Mill ($\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Milldale), and there turn up to the right and so reach Alsop-en-le-Dale Stat. ($\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Lode Mill).

Beresford Dale is separately noticed, but it remains to say a word as to the valley of the Dove above it—the least visited, but, notwithstanding, a very charming portion of the valley of this always delightful stream. The Dove is here a mere infant, but it is flanked on either side by splendid hill scenery, and in places by grey crags which recall those of Dovedale proper. The distance from Beresford Dale to the point where the Staffordshire boundary at last turns away from the Dove is about 8 m., and those who walk them all

DOVEDALE: LION'S HEAD ROCK

should not fail to complete their Dove pilgrimage by walking 2 m. further, into Derbyshire, and reach the Dove's actual source, which some pious hand has marked by a modern stone inscribed with the familiar initials I. W. and C. C. The beauty of the valley can be safely left without further description, though perhaps especial attention should be directed to the length called Glutten Dale, and its fine heights called Park Hill and Chroom Hill—though these are only two among an almost countless number.

Draycott-in-the-Moors is a small village ½ m. from Cresswell Stat. The church (St Margaret) was rebuilt in 1848 (the sedilia and piscina being of that date), save for the picturesque ivy-covered tower and the Draycott chapel. The tower is a composite erection, with an E.E. lower stage and a 17th cent. upper storey. The outer walls of the Draycott chapel are Dec. work. It is lamentable to relate that a Saxon cross-shaft which stood in the churchyard up to some fifty years ago has totally disappeared. One of the bells, dated 1607, has the pretty inscription:

> "I sweetly toling men do call
> To taste on meats that feede the sool."

The chapel is filled with monuments of the Draycott family, the earliest being an effigy of a warrior in chain mail of the 13th cent. lying under a modern arch. Next in date to this come two incised alabaster slabs, one (now placed in the wall just outside the chapel) of Sir William Draycott, rector of the parish, who died in 1512, having, as the inscription records, "founded a dole in Lent for the poor housekeepers of the parish." There are five table tombs of the 16th and 17th cents., three of which bear effigies. The family seat, Paynsley Hall, is about 1 m. away,

but is now only a farm-house, retaining nothing of the old building except an enormous stone chimney. The moat and earthworks can still be traced. The Draycotts were among the irreconcilable Roman Catholics, and Dr Anthony Draycott, chancellor of the diocese of Lichfield in Queen Mary's reign, and rector of Draycott, Checkley, and other places, made himself conspicuous by his extreme cruelty towards the Protestants, but in 1560 he was thrown into prison and stripped of all his preferments except Draycott Rectory. A daughter of the house, carrying on the family tradition, became the wife of Anthony Babington, the would-be rescuer of Mary Queen of Scots. Later Draycotts garrisoned Paynsley for Charles I., but were soon overpowered, and the place was then occupied for many months by a Parliamentary force.

Drayton Basset is 1½ m. from Wilnecote Stat. The Lords Basset of Drayton, the last of whom died in 1390, were among the first men in England in the 13th and 14th cents. Ralph, the first Lord Basset, fell at Evesham in the army of Simon de Montfort. The second baron was buried at Drayton in 1299, but the old church (St John the Baptist) and his tomb were remorselessly destroyed (save for the Perp. tower), and poorly rebuilt about 1840 by the great Sir Robert Peel, who was buried in the church in 1850. The tower was apparently almost detached from the old church. Drayton Manor, a large house in a splendid park, was built by the first Sir Robert Peel from designs by Sir Robert Smirke.

Dudley Castle, for some reason not easy to discover, is in Staffordshire, although the town and all the rest of its outskirts have always been in a detached part of Worcestershire. It is impossible to say who was the builder of the first castle at Dudley, for

though there are vague legends of a Saxon castle, there is no sort of certainty until the Domesday entry: "William Fitz Ansculf holds Dudley, and there is his castle." A later owner, Ralph Paganell, held the fortress for Queen Maud against King Stephen in 1138, but, in consequence of his son Gervase joining the rebellion of Prince Henry against Henry II., the building was demolished by royal command in 1175. On Gervase Paganell's death the estate descended in the female line to the de Somerys, who, between about 1250 and 1320, built a new castle, of which parts still survive. In 1321 the estate passed again, this time to the de Suttons, of whom the most famous in the direct line is noticed among the Worthies in the Introduction to this volume. About 1536 the castle was obtained by some obscure and probably dishonourable means by John Dudley, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, and the unscrupulous protector of Edward VI., who belonged to a younger branch of the de Suttons. During his possession he built the manor house, the ruins of which form the larger part of the existing castle. On his execution in 1553 the place was regained by the elder line, and in 1575 Edward, the fourth Baron Dudley of the de Suttons, entertained Queen Elizabeth there on her way from Kenilworth to Chartley. The family died out in the male line in 1621, and were succeeded by the Wards, the head of which house is now Earl of Dudley. During the Civil War the castle was held by a strong Royalist garrison, under Colonel Leveson, who successfully resisted a three weeks' siege in June 1644, and did not surrender until May 1646, Dudley Castle thus being the last place in Staffordshire, except Lichfield Close, to capitulate. Some degree of dismantling then no doubt took place, but the castle

continued to be habitable until a lamentable fire in 1750 completely gutted it.

The ruins are, despite this disaster, still of considerable interest. The surviving portions of the de Somerys' building are the ruins of the Warder's Tower (at the foot of the Castle Hill), the Entrance Gateway, the Keep, and the Chapel. Two only of the original four towers of the Keep remain, and the more complete of these is, in its upper portions, a reconstruction carried out by Lord Dudley in 1805. The 16th cent. remains are more extensive, and many of the architectural features are still picturesque. There are a number of caverns in the limestone beneath the castle, but as these are due to comparatively modern quarrying operations, they can hardly be said to be worth visiting.

Dunstall is a village 3 m. from Barton-and-Walton Stat. The parish was formed in 1854.

Dunston is 2½ m. from Penkridge Stat. The parish was formed in 1844. The church was rebuilt in 1876-8.

Eccleshall (3 m. from Norton Bridge Stat.) is one of those old market towns of Staffordshire which, through the lack of a railway, have almost reached a state of stagnation. It is chiefly remarkable for its castle having been for nearly seven hundred years the residence of the Bishops of Lichfield. This castle was rebuilt by Bishop Walter de Langton about 1315. In 1643 Bishop Robert Wright was besieged in it for two months (June to August) by a Parliamentarian force. In August he died, but the besieged still resisted, and were momentarily relieved by a party of Royalists, who succeeded in driving their opponents to seek refuge in the church. But on the following day the tables were turned by the sudden

arrival of a large detachment from the garrison of Stafford, and the garrison of the church making a sally at the same moment, the Royalists were nipped between the two and signally defeated. The castle and the large quantity of treasure which it contained were captured a day later. It was shortly afterwards dismantled, but was restored as a place of residence by Bishop Lloyd about 1695, and continued to be the episcopal residence until the death of Bishop Lonsdale in 1867. It is now a private residence, retaining only a tower and part of a wall of Langton's building. The tower is remarkable for having nine sides.

The church (Holy Trinity) stands well, and is a fine spacious building. It has three fragments of Saxon crosses embedded in its walls, two in the N. wall of the N. aisle of the tower, and one in the S. arcade, near the chancel arch. The tower, which is 95 feet high, is in its lowest stage late E.E., in the middle stage Dec., and in the highest stage Perp. The three tower arches are exceptionally fine; the modern over-crocketted pinnacles are its least happy feature. The arcades of the nave are Trans., but the nave is otherwise Perp. work of about 1500. The chancel is in part E.E., and retains a good doorway, but has been much restored; the same applies to its N. chapel; the E.E. vestry is an unusual feature, probably put up for the convenience of the Bishop. The church contains the tombs of four Bishops of Lichfield. The earliest is that of Richard Sampson, Bishop from 1543 to 1553; it is a table-tomb which once bore an incised effigy of the Bishop in his vestments, but only a part of this remains. Next comes that of Thomas Bentham, Bishop from 1560 to 1579, and then that of his successor, William Overton (dated 1603,

but he lived till 1609)—a table-tomb with an effigy, and, in recesses above, kneeling figures of the Bishop's two wives. Lastly is the modern tomb and effigy of James Bowstead (1840-1843), and in the churchyard is buried the saintly John Lonsdale (1843-1867).

Edingale is a village on the Derbyshire border, 2 m. from Elford Stat. The church (Holy Trinity) was mainly rebuilt in brick in 1735-6, but a portion of the N. wall of the chancel was spared, and contained some Saxon work—the remains of an early chapel of Alrewas. At a rebuilding in 1881, however, the ancient work all disappeared, except that the stones of a small Saxon window were preserved in a window of the vestry.

Elford church (now called St Peter, but formerly St Swithun) has been entirely rebuilt with the exception of its Perp. tower. It is well worth visiting, however, to see the beautiful avenue of limes which leads through the churchyard to the W. end of the church, and still more for the sake of its justly famous monuments. These were excellently restored by Mr E. Richardson, the sculptor, in 1848-9, and, with one exception, are all in the S. chapel, or Howard chantry. The earliest and finest is the magnificent alabaster table-tomb with effigies of a knight and his wife. They are probably those of Sir Thomas de Arderne (1391), a warrior who fought at Poitiers, and his wife Matilda (Stafford), but may be of his son, Sir John de Arderne (1408) and his wife. Their hands are interclasped—a pretty and not common feature. On the frontal of the knight's basinet are the words "Jesu Maria"; he wears a heavy camail over his neck and shoulders, and plate armour on the rest of his body. Both he and his wife have collars of SS. On the sides of the tomb are no less

than twenty-two statuettes, twelve of them angels bearing coats of arms (conjecturally restored), and the other ten male and female figures, probably of relatives, chief officials, or friends of the deceased. Next in date to this comes the fine alabaster effigy of Sir John Stanley (1474) on a modern tomb. His head rests on a helm surmounted by the Stanley crest of the eagle and child. Next is a small tomb (also modern) bearing the figure of a child, supposed to be John Stanley (*c.* 1480), the grandson of the last named Sir John. He was evidently killed by a blow from a tennis ball, which is held in his left hand, while his right points to his head, and the tomb bears the explanation (restored): "Ubi dolor, ibi digitus." Next is the curious painted semi-effigy of a civilian in a sunk panel on the N. side of the chancel, thought to represent one William Staunton (*c.* 1500), who married Margery Stanley, the sister of the boy shown on the last tomb. Lastly, there is the table-tomb of Sir William Smythe (1525) and his two wives, Anne (Staunton) and Isabella (Neville), with somewhat grotesque figures of priests on the sides. This would in most churches be considered a fine monument, but here it suffers a little from comparison with the workmanship of the earlier tombs.

Elkstone (Upper and Lower) are moorland hamlets forming a chapelry in Alstonfield parish.

Ellastone (1 m. from the Derbyshire Norbury) is a pretty village standing on a gentle slope, with the great Weever Hills above it, and the Dove below. The parish contains a wealth of beautiful scenery, and in addition is probably as rich in associations as any in England. The church (St Peter) has a Tudor chancel and tower; the nave was ruthlessly restored in 1883. The date 1588, with the Langton arms, is over the S. doorway of the chancel, and the date

1586 over the W. door of the tower. The great width of the two arches of the nave arcade is curious, two pillars having been removed. There is a terribly mutilated table-tomb (1590), with effigies of John Fleetwood and his wife Joan (Langton).

The village is well known to all readers of George Eliot's "Adam Bede," for it is the Hayslope which is the scene of most of the incidents of that vivid book. The fictitious Donnithorne Arms is the real Bromley Arms; Loamshire stands for Staffordshire, Stonyshire for Derbyshire, Oakbourne for Ashbourne, Eagledale for Dovedale, Norbourne for Norbury. Donnithorne Chase is either Wootton Hall or (less probably) Calwich Abbey. The second chapter of the book contains a most faithful description of the aspect of the village and its neighbourhood. George Eliot's own father, Robert Evans, who spent his early life at Ellastone as a carpenter, was the original of Adam Bede, his brother Samuel of Seth Bede, and Samuel's wife Elizabeth was in some respects the prototype of Dinah Morris, the Methodist preacher. Robert Evans' father's house and workshop still remain, though the house has been converted into two small cottages, and the workshop into a wash-house and cow-shed. Samuel Evans' house has been enlarged, and is now a doctor's. In "Adam Bede" Staffordshire country folk are portrayed once and for all; all its characters are finely drawn, but perhaps Mrs Poyser is the most unforgettable. Dr Johnson is not more certainly the greatest of Staffordshire men than is Mrs Poyser the greatest of Staffordshire women.

Half a mile from the village stands Wootton Hall, a low stone mansion in a large park. It was built about 1730, and remains much as it was when Jean Jacques Rousseau and his companion, Thérèse

le Vasseur, arrived there in March 1766 as the guests of its owner, a Mr Davenport. Rousseau (who had only reached England in January) had already rejected several offers of hospitality, and accepted Davenport's owing to the attraction of Wootton's remote situation. Davenport (a wealthy man with other residences) placed the whole house and a staff of domestics at Rousseau's disposal, but, in consequence of the philosopher's pride, had to agree to accept a nominal annual payment of £30. In July occurred Rousseau's celebrated quarrel with his once beloved friend and benefactor, David Hume. He went on to entertain foolish suspicions against almost all his friends, and the suspicions at length became incipient insanity. At Wootton he had his fill of the solitude which he professed to delight in, for neither he nor Thérèse spoke a word of English, and they communicated with the household by signs only. He was glad enough to accept an invitation from Mr Bernard Granville to spend some days at Calwich Abbey, where he mingled in polite society. He occupied himself on fine days in wandering about the neighbourhood botanizing, and on wet ones with writing his "Confessions," which were begun here. He is said to have written some of his "Letters on Botany" in a spot called the "Twenty Oaks." The villagers long remembered his strange appearance, as he searched the park wall for mosses, or pried in some lonely nook for plants, clad in a long gown and belt, on his head a black velvet cap with gold tassels. The local opinions of him varied; some held that he was an exiled king, and some that he was a necromancer with spirits at his command. An arched grotto beneath a terrace at one side of the Hall is still called Rousseau's Cave. He and Thérèse left Wootton in a causeless huff and with

great suddenness on 1st May 1767, leaving no clue as to their destination. They at length reappeared at Spalding, and before the end of the month had left England, and the imaginary persecutors which it contained, for ever.

A mile further, on the road to Farley, is Wootton Lodge, certainly at once the most beautiful and the most beautifully-situated house in Staffordshire. It was built by Sir Richard Fleetwood about 1615, and has the arms of the Fleetwoods over the door. Sir Richard garrisoned it for the king, but in 1643 surrendered to an overwhelming force without resistance, and somehow or other managed to save the house from damage. It is built of a beautiful grey stone, and is in the pure Elizabethan style, with scarcely a trace of foreign influence. The fine flight of steps to the door and the pierced parapet were added in the time of William III. These with the semi-circular windows at the corners of the front are all fine features, while the situation, with a steep descent to a wooded ravine on three sides, and the Weevers rising far above, is little short of perfection.

The little grey stone hamlet of Wootton itself is chiefly known through the old distich :—

> "Wootton under Weever,
> Where God comes never."

"This profane proverb, it seems," says Thomas Fuller in his "Worthies," "took its wicked original from the situation of Wootton, so covered with hills from the light of the sun, a dismal place as report representeth it. But were there a place indeed where 'God came never,' how many years' purchase would guilty consciences give for a small abode therein?" There is really very little foundation for the aspersion, for the Weevers are the only considerable hills about the

ELLASTONE : WOOTTON LODGE

amlet, and they lie to the N., so that they cannot intercept any sunlight.

Calwich Abbey stands close to Ellastone village. It takes its name from an establishment of Augustinian canons, founded before 1148 by Nicholas Fitz-Nigel. No portion of the ancient buildings remains. The house was rebuilt in 1848. The former residence was, when occupied by Mr and Mrs Bernard Granville in the middle 18th cent., famous for its assemblies of notabilities. Rousseau's visit there has been already mentioned; Handel also came, and among lesser "lions," Anna Seward, Erasmus Darwin, and the Rev. John Gisborne, who wrote there his poem "The Vales of Weever."

Stanton, another upland hamlet in Ellastone parish, was the birthplace of Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury. Its name, "the stone house," in contradistinction to Wootton, "the wood house," expresses very graphically the difference between the situations of the two. The road from Ellastone to Stanton passes up a beautiful little dale; beside a cottage should be noticed the base-stone of a wayside cross called "Ouseley Cross."

Ellenhall is 3 m. from Great Bridgeford Stat. The church (St Michael) has a small Norman window in the chancel, but is mainly Perp There are some 14th cent. tiles, and a Norman "tub" font.

Endon, which became a parish in 1737, is one of the few new Staffordshire parishes formed in the 18th cent. The church (St Luke) was built in 1730, but has since been improved.

Enville (5 m. from Stourbridge) is a village whose name is a late alteration of Enfield—the even or level land. The church (St Mary), restored under Sir Gilbert Scott in 1872-5, has several

points of interest, though the restorer made a mistake in erecting the present tower, which is a slavish copy of the Somersetshire towers, and very much out of place in Staffordshire. The nave has a four-arched Norman arcade on either side, but the two sides are of different dates, the capitals of the pillars on the N. being round, while those on the S. are square. The oak rood-screen, restored in 1884, is partially of old work. The chancel and aisles are plain Dec., the former rebuilt by Roger de Birmingham, rector temp. Edward I., and the N. aisle, or Lutteley chantry, by Philip de Lutteley in 1333. The S. aisle was the chantry of the Grey family. An effigy of Roger de Birmingham lies in a founder's recess on the N. side of the chancel. His tomb was opened during the restoration of the church, and tht skeleton found intact, still wearing some traces of vestments, and with a cup and paten at the right hand. There are four miserere seats with carvings beneath, representing (1) musicians, (2) bear-baiting, (3) a horseman transfixed by a falling portcullis, (4) a man and woman praying in a pew. At the E. end of the S. aisle is a very perfect alabaster table-tomb (1559), with effigies of Thomas Grey and his wife Anne (Verney). Two curious carved stones of Saxon date, which were discovered at the restoration built up in the Norm. pillars, are now in the wall above the S. arcade of the nave. The stone facing N. represents a figure with uplifted hands standing upon a grotesque head, bearing a flabellum or fan for keeping flies from the consecrated elements, and having all the emblems of a deacon in the Eastern church; the other stone has a Bishop, with mitre and crozier, within a rude niche. The church contains some good modern glass. In the churchyard are three

incised stone coffin-lids, and the steps and a portion of the shaft of the ancient cross.

Enville Hall, the seat of Sir Henry Foley Grey, Bart., is a modern stuccoed and castellated building, the former residence having been entirely destroyed by fire a few years ago. The grounds were laid out on a lavish scale by the poet Shenstone.

In this parish, besides many noble woods, is the beautiful Highgate Common, after Cannock Chase the largest space of unenclosed land remaining in the county. At Highgate Farm is one of the largest Spanish chestnuts in England.

Etruria now forms part of the united borough of the Pottery towns. It owes its name and origin to the great Josiah Wedgwood, who, when building his works and residence here, was under the impression that the classical vases which he so much admired had been found in Etruria, though in fact they mostly came from Calabria. Wedgwood's home, Etruria Hall, still stands, but is now used as the offices of an iron company. His works here, however, are carried on by his direct descendants.

Ettingshall is a Black Country parish, formed in 1841.

Fairwell is a hamlet 3 m. from Lichfield. Its name is usually, but fatuously, spelt Farewell. It owes its church to a small convent of Benedictine nuns, originally founded as a Cistercian Priory by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Lichfield about 1140. All the monastic buildings have entirely disappeared, while of the church itself (St Bartholomew) only the chancel survived the efforts of some vandals, who erected a miserable brick edifice in 1745. The chancel has one Dec. and two Perp. windows, and some old stalls. The nunnery was suppressed by

Bishop Geoffrey Blythe in 1526, and the revenues devoted to the support of the choristers of Lichfield Cathedral. Fairwell Hall, close to the church, is a stately Queen Anne building, with a fine staircase and oak panelling.

Fawfieldhead is a moorland township, containing several small hamlets, in the parish of Alstonfield. It possesses a station at Hulme End, on the Light Railway.

Fazeley is a manufacturing village, on the Watling Street, formed into a parish in 1842.

Fenton is now a part of the united borough of the Pottery towns. It is entirely of modern growth, not having become a separate parish until 1841, but in 1901 had attained a population of 22,742, almost wholly dependent for livelihood on the pottery and coal-mining industries.

Forsbrook became a parish in 1849, and has a station at Blythe Bridge close by.

Forton is a small village on the Shropshire border, 2 m. from Newport. Of the church (All Saints) only the low, massive tower is of much interest. It is a handsome example of Tudor work, though the actual masonry of the two lower stages is Norman. The rest of the church was rebuilt in a wretched fashion in 1721, except the N. aisle (Dec.), and this was almost completely spoilt. It contains a table-tomb with effigies of Sir Thomas Skrymsher and his wife (1633). In the churchyard, to the west of the tower, is a fragment of an ancient font. On a hill above the village is a queer little round building called "The Monument," though what it commemorates seems to be utterly forgotten. Aqualate Hall, standing in a fine deer-park which contains a large mere, is 2 m. away.

Foxt and *Whiston*, two moorland villages, became a joint parish in 1898.

Fradswell is a scattered hamlet, between Leigh and Weston Stats., and about 3½ m. from each. The church (St James the Less) was rebuilt in 1764, and enlarged in 1852.

Freehay (2 m. from Cheadle Stat.) became a parish in 1847.

Fulford (1½ m. from Cresswell Stat.) was an ancient chapelry in Stone parish. The chapel was pulled down in 1825, and the present church (St Nicholas) built.

Gailey and *Hatherton* were formed into a joint parish in 1869. At Gailey, alongside the Watling Street, are three large reservoirs for the supply of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal.

Gayton is a village 1½ m. from Weston-on-Trent. The church (St Peter) was terribly maltreated in 1732, when a new tower of blue and red bricks—surely the last word in hideousness—was erected, the N. aisle destroyed, and a new N. wall, also of brick, built between the northern arches of the nave arcade. This arcade is Trans. in date, and the S. arcade is E.E. The chancel arch is of good Norman work, ornamented with the chevron pattern; and the circular font, which is curiously shallow and without a line of ornament, may be Norman also. In the floor of the nave are some ancient tiles, and in the modern chancel lies a stone effigy of a knight (probably 14th cent.), which is said to represent a member of the Ferrers family.

Gentleshaw (4 m. from Armitage Stat.) is a mining village on Cannock Chase, formed into a parish in 1840.

Gnosall is a large village of no particular interest, but the church (St Laurence) is one of the seven cruciform churches of Staffordshire, and one of the finest

ecclesiastical buildings in the county. The details of its late Norman work particularly are full of charm. It was one of the six collegiate churches in the county, and had an establishment of a dean and four prebends.

Considering first *the exterior*, the tower is of Norman work throughout its lower half, and the upper portion is Perp., with a band of ornament, battlements and pinnacles. Much of the walling of the church throughout is Norman, but in the nave all the present windows are Perp. The S. door is E.E., enclosed by a modern porch; the W. door is also E.E., and has above it a triple lancet window of the same period. The S. transept contains a Perp. doorway, and a very small lancet window. The S. chapel is mainly Perp. The chancel has a fine Dec. E. window with flowing tracery, and an early 13th cent. priest's doorway. In the N. transept is a double lancet N. window; its curious adjunct has Perp. windows, though its masonry shows that it was added as early as the Norman period.

The interior.—The nave has E.E. arcades and a Perp. clerestory. Its roof is modern, but that of the N. aisle retains the original Perp. timbers. The arches beneath the tower are (except for the S. transept) the finest piece of work in the church. They are typically handsome and massive Norman work, the best being that to the W., which has three bands of elaborate carving. In the chancel the most striking piece of work is the E. window, already mentioned. In the N. wall is a founder's arch, Trans. in character, now containing the effigy of a child. The head of a stone coffin-lid, with a floriated cross and compasses carved upon it, is built into the E. wall. The modern reredos, designed by Mr G. E. Street, was originally in Eccleshall Church. The S. chapel

GREAT HAYWOOD: THE ESSEX BRIDGE OVER THE TRENT

contains a piscina; the arcade between it and the chancel is modern and ugly.[1] There is a good Trans. arch between this chapel and the S. transept, which latter has some splendid Norman features, particularly the triforium on the W. side, and beautifully carved string courses. The arch between this transept and the S. aisle of the nave is a fine E.E. one, but its outer capitals are Norman, and there is a charming small Norman arch at its side. The N. transept is mostly occupied by the organ, and its walls are plastered over, so that its features cannot be viewed to advantage.

Goldenhill, a village on the outskirts of the Potteries, became a parish in 1841.

Gratwich is a small village 2 m. from Grindley Stat. It has a mean brick church (St Mary).

Great Barr (see under *Barr*).

Great Haywood is worth visiting for the sake of seeing the very picturesque "Essex Bridge," which crosses the Trent just at the point where it is joined by the Sow. It was built by the Earls of Essex of Chartley to provide a passage for horses and hounds to Cannock Chase; its present 14 arches are all that remain out of the original 42, which stretched a long distance over the wet ground on either side of the river. The Roman Catholic Chapel at Great Haywood was removed from Tixall and re-erected here in 1845, but was modernized in the process.

Shugborough Hall, to which the Essex Bridge leads, is the residence of the Earl of Lichfield, and was the birthplace of Lord Anson, the admiral. The triumphal arch in the park was erected to Lord Anson's memory by his elder brother. A Chinese temple and

[1] In this chapel is the only tomb in the church—one of very rude workmanship, bearing the effigy of a knight of the Brough family.

another strange building in the park seem to have been built for no reason at all. The present Earl of Lichfield is a descendant of Lord Anson's sister, whose son took the name of Anson.

Great Wyrley became a parish in 1846. It stands on the edge of the Cannock Chase mining district.

Grindon is a moorland village about a mile from its little station on the Manifold Valley Light Railway. Its name is more properly Grendon, *i.e.* the Green Hill. The church (All Saints) was entirely rebuilt about 1843, and its only ancient relics are a large and very rude stone font (probably Norman) with a zigzag pattern round the top, and two stone coffins (probably 13th cent.), without the lids, which now lie in the tower. The church spire is a great landmark for miles around.

Hales (3 m. from Market Drayton) became a parish in 1856. It includes the site of the battle of Blore Heath (see under *Mucklestone*).

Hammerwich Church (St John the Baptist) was built in 1873, replacing a most picturesque old chapel with dormer windows.

Hamstall Ridware (see *Ridwares*).

Hanbury (2½ m. from Sudbury) stands beautifully upon the top of a hill overlooking the broad valleys of the Trent and the Dove. Here Ethelred, King of Mercia and over-lord of England, founded a nunnery in 680, and appointed his niece Werburga prioress both of this foundation and that at Trentham. Werburga died at Trentham about 700, but was buried at Hanbury, evidently the more important house. Nine years after her death, Ceolred, the next King of Mercia, exhumed the body and removed it to Chester, and (according to the story) found it had been miraculously preserved from corruption. The nunnery was burnt by

the Danes in 875, and never rebuilt. There are now no remains visible, but on its site, just E. of the church, human bones have frequently been dug up.

The present church (St Werburga) is entirely modern, except for the nave arcade, which is *c.* 1260. It contains, however, several interesting monuments, nearly all of the alabaster which is still quarried at Fauld in the parish. The earliest is the effigy of a cross-legged knight in chain armour, which lies on a table-tomb in the south aisle. It is that of Sir John de Hanbury (d. 1303), and is believed to be the oldest alabaster effigy in England. Next in date is a mutilated brass to a rector of the church, who died in 1408. The Christian name is John; the surname is missing, but it is believed to have been Cheyne. Other monuments are: A table-tomb, with effigy of Ralph Adderley (1595); another with effigy of Charles Egerton, axe-bearer in Needwood Forest (1624); and two life-like 17th cent. busts of Mrs Agarde and her daughter. The casing of the font is modern, but the bowl is E.E.

At Fauld Hall lived William Burton, earliest historian of Leicestershire, and elder brother of the famous Robert Burton, author of the "Anatomy of Melancholy." William Burton died at Fauld in 1645, and was buried at Hanbury, but no stone marks the spot.

Hanford is a village 1 m. from Trentham. The parish was formed in 1832.

Hanley (which includes Shelton) is the most populous of the Pottery towns, and in most respects is entitled to be called their chief, though the railway and postal centre is Stoke-on-Trent. Hanley is a perfectly modern town, the first church having been built only in 1737, and it was merely a township in the parish of Stoke until 1857, when it became a borough. With

Burslem, it has since 1885 returned its own member to Parliament, and in 1901 it had a population of 62,226.

Handsworth is the Staffordshire suburb of Birmingham, but before long will probably be included in the civic boundaries. It was here, at the famous Soho Factory, that those pioneers of modern industrialism, Matthew Boulton and James Watt, worked out their schemes—Watt supplying the inventive genius, and Boulton the capital and the business capacity. Both were buried at Handsworth, and are commemorated in the church there—Boulton, who died in 1809, by a bust; and Watt, who died ten years later, by a seated statue by Chantrey. The church (St Mary) was restored and in great part rebuilt in 1880. The central tower, however, with its external stair turret, is of the 14th cent., and a N. chapel probably dates from about 1500.

Harlaston is a small village, 1 m. from Elford Stat. The church (St Matthew) was a chapel of Clifton Campville till 1845. It has been wholly rebuilt in brick, with the exception of a portion of the tower. This has an E.E. arch on the E., and lancet windows on the N. and S. sides. It is capped by a half-timbered belfry turret—probably a restoration of an earlier turret of the same type.

Close by is Haselour Hall, perhaps the most charming half-timbered house in the county. It has five gables at the front. It was the residence of a younger branch of the Stanleys of Elford, and is believed to have been built by them. The chapel attached to the house is now used as a Roman Catholic place of worship. It has a Norman doorway and a Dec. E. window.

Haughton is a village 1 m. from its station, between Stafford and Newport. It is well described by its name—"The town in the meadows." The church (St Giles) was unfortunately partially pulled down and

rebuilt in 1737, and was again mainly rebuilt in 1887. The tower and N. chapel (St Catherine), however, are old, having been built by Nicholas Cranmer [?], a rector of the parish, about 1500, and the chapel contains a well-preserved alabaster slab showing him in full vestments (1520). The other ancient portions are parts of the W. and N. walls of the nave. The former contains a single lancet window, and the latter has a Dec. doorway and some windows of the 15th cent.

Haughton Old Hall is a well-preserved, half-timbered building of the time of Henry VIII.

About half-way between Haughton and Castle-church, within a plantation, a little to the N. of the road, is the fine pre-historic earthwork fortress called Bury Ring. It is about seven acres in extent, and roughly elliptical in shape.

On Billington Hall farm, close by, are the remains of a mediæval wayside cross.

Haywood, Great. See Great Haywood.

Heath Town is a manufacturing town of recent growth on the E. side of Wolverhampton. It became a parish in 1853, and has now a population of some 10,000. It manufactures safes, pumps, locks, hinges, and other iron goods.

Heathylee is a large moorland township including several hamlets which lie between Leek and Longnor.

Hednesford is one of the Cannock Chase colliery towns. It became a parish in 1870.

Heleigh Castle is 2 m. from Keele Stat. The remains of the ancient castle, which stands in a very strong position on a high rock, consist only of two pieces of wall, a portion of E.E. arcading, and a well. Its most famous owners were the Audley family, to the founder of which, Henry de Audley, the castle

was given by William de Betley in 1226. For some unexplained reason a great number of valuable manors in the neighbourhood were bestowed upon him by their owners. "What man of men," asks Thomas Fuller, "was this Henry, that so many of both sexes should centre in their bounty upon him? Was it for fear, or love, or a mixture of both? But I have no calling to inquire into the cause thereof; and if they were pleased to give, none will blame him for receiving them." One member of this family, Sir Thomas[1] (1385), was interred in Audley Church (see p. 76). The castle passed through heiresses to the Fitzwarrens in 1386, and then to the Touchets, who became Barons of Audley. It was one of this race who fell in command of the Lancastrian army at Blore Heath. In 1578 the castle was bought by the Gerards, and its history ended in 1645, when the Parliamentarian committee at Stafford ordered its demolition "for fear lest an enemy should possess himself of it."

High Offley is 5 m. from Gnosall Stat. The church (St Mary) stands in a fine position. The lowest stage of the tower is Trans., but the window which it contains has been modernized. The two upper stages are "stonemason's Gothic," bearing over the middle western window the date 1667. Other Trans. features are the S. arcade of the nave and the W. window of the aisle. The E. window of the aisle is late E.E. One of the bells is of the 15th cent., with a beautifully-lettered "Hail Mary" legend. Another, dated 1601, has a couplet with a pious aspiration, but a wretched rhyme:—

"God save the Church, our Queene, and Realme,
And send us peace in Christ. Amen."

[1] He was the 4th son of James, Baron Audley of Heleigh, who fought at Creçy and Calais, who was a cousin of Sir James, K.G., the hero of Poictiers, who also fought at Creçy (see under Worthies, p. 45).

Hilderstone (2½ m. from Aston-by-Stone Stat.) became a parish in 1840.

Himley is 6 m. from Wolverhampton. The name perhaps means "hop land." The church (St Michael) bears the date 1764, but it is not without interest as one of the few wholly Georgian churches of the county, and shows that when the architects of the time were not striving to amend a Gothic building with which they were entirely out of sympathy, they could produce something not altogether undignified. Externally, it is true, this church has a poor appearance, chiefly owing to its plaster covering, but within the apsidal chancel, and the oak screen and wainscoting are decidedly handsome. Himley Hall, an ugly house in a fine park, is one of the residences of the Earls of Dudley.

Half a mile away, among colliery pit-banks, is the notable curiosity known as "the Crooked House"—a small public-house which has had the good fortune to meet with a peculiar accident. Through underground workings one end has sunk several feet into the earth, but, by a freak of nature, without cracking the house in two. This gives rise to some uncanny effects within; clocks, for example, will not go unless they are hung much out of the apparent perpendicular, and a marble will perform the astonishing feat of rolling (apparently) *up* a table.

Holbeach House, a pretty little stone residence on the L. a ¼ m. from Himley on the Stourbridge Road, is the successor of a house with an astonishing history, for it belonged to Stephen Littleton, one of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators, and here their last stand took place. The party, twelve in number, reached Holbeach, by hard travelling, on the evening of the 7th November 1605, two days after the discovery of

Fawkes. On the way they had to ford the river Stour in flood, and in doing so their gunpowder (which they had in a cart) was badly wetted. Naturally, they arrived weary and down-hearted, and one of them, Digby, preferred to take to the woods at once, but the rest determined to show fight, and were foolishly trying to dry their powder before a large fire in the hall, when a spark suddenly ignited it. In the explosion three of them, Catesby, Grant, and Rookwood, were badly burnt; and three more, R. Winter, Bates, and Stephen Littleton himself, seeing the hopelessness of further resistance, followed Digby into the woods, thus leaving but five sound men (besides some servants) in the house. The Sheriff of Worcestershire arrived the next day, and, surrender being refused, ordered the house to be set on fire. Catesby, Piercy, and the two Wrights chose to die fighting, and dashed outside, but were all immediately shot down. The other wounded men, Rookwood and Grant, with Thomas Winter and Henry Morgan, were captured inside: those who had fled were all taken within a few days, and the whole gang eventually met their thoroughly-merited fate on the gallows in London.

Hints is a village on the Watling Street, 4 m. from Tamworth. Its curious name is from the Welsh "hynt," a road. The church (St Bartholomew) was entirely rebuilt in 1882-3.

Hixon became a separate parish in 1848.

Hoar Cross is a small hamlet, 6 m. from Sudbury Stat., in the midst of what was Needwood Forest. Here is perhaps the most beautiful modern church in England, erected in 1872-6 by Mrs Meynell-Ingram in memory of her husband, Mr H. F. Meynell-Ingram, M.P. It was designed by Mr G. F. Bodley, and is cruciform in plan, with a central tower, and

Dec in style. It is dedicated to the Holy Angels. There are four chapels: a Lady Chapel and Chapel of St Hugh on the N. of the chancel, and a chantry chapel and Chapel of All Souls on the S. Internally every part of the church is enriched with all manner of carved and sculptured adornments.

Hollington, a village 3 m. from Alton Stat., is a chapelry in Checkley parish. It stands above beds of excellent building stone, of which many Staffordshire churches, old and new, consist, and it was probably mainly on this account that the site of Croxden Abbey was fixed in the valley below.

Hollinsclough (3 m. from Hindlow Stat.) is one of several chapelries in the large moorland parish of Alstonfield.

Hopton is a hamlet, with a modern chapel of ease, 1½ m. from Salt Stat. (G.N.R.), or about 3 m. from Stafford. On Hopton Heath was fought, on Sunday, the 19th March 1643, the only important engagement of the Civil War (leaving sieges out of account) which took place on Staffordshire ground. The Heath is now mostly enclosed, and the appearance of the place no doubt much altered, but there seems no doubt that the actual site of the skirmish was on the left-hand side of the road leading from Stafford to Weston, just beyond the bye-road leading to Hopton.

Sir John Gell, fresh from the capture of Lichfield Close, had advanced upon Stafford with the intention of capturing it also, but was attacked at Great Haywood by a superior Royalist force under the Earl of Northampton. He fell back temporarily, but in a day or two was joined by a force under Sir William Brereton, who, assuming the command, again advanced on the town, and the forces engaged "about two o'clock

in the afternoon." The Royalist cavalry, who were much superior to those on the other side, as usual swept all before them at their first charge, but they seem to have become disordered, and at the second charge the Earl's horse was killed, and he was surrounded. He refused to surrender, and fell without being recognized, and eventually almost all the officers on the Royalist side were either killed or disabled. The admitted losses were, however, small; the Royalists confessed to sixty, and Sir William Brereton owned only to thirty, though, in accordance with a practice not unknown in modern warfare, each estimated the enemy's loss at several hundreds. The dead were buried in the neighbouring churchyards of Sandon and Weston. The engagement is most properly described as indecisive, for the Royalists, notwithstanding their losses, re-occupied Stafford, and Sir William Brereton withdrew from the neighbourhood, and did not capture the town till two months later.

Horton is a village 1½ m. from Rudyard Stat. The church (St Michael), formerly a chapel of Leek, stands well, and is of some interest. The oldest part is the 15th cent. N. aisle; the rest of the nave was rebuilt in 1863, except the N. arcade and the S. doorway, which are of Tudor date. The tower is a good example of Tudor workmanship, but the chancel of the same date has been a good deal spoilt by "restorers." The font and the screen in the tower archway are both Perp. work, and interesting. There is a brass to John and Mary Wedgwood of Harracles (1589) and their three sons and five daughters. At the base of the tower lies the ancient altar stone with five incised crosses, and in the E. gable of the chancel is a sunk panel with a representation of the "five wounds." In

the churchyard are some fine yews, and the monument of George Heath, called, on the strength of some very mediocre verse, "The Moorland Poet."

Horton Hall is a fine stone building, built by the Edge family in the 17th cent., and Dairy House Farm is of the same period.

Ilam lies in lovely surroundings, at the lower entrance to Dovedale. It is 2 m. from Thorpe Stat. The name should be properly spelt "Hylum," *i.e.* "at the hills" (dative plural of hyl). The village, through which runs the river Manifold, is a "model" one, mostly rebuilt about 1840 by Mr Jesse Watts-Russell. He also rebuilt the Hall (in a curious variety of architectural styles), and put up, in memory of his first wife, a very beautiful cross and drinking-fountain in the middle of the village.

The church (Holy Cross) stands in the Hall grounds. It was almost entirely rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1854, the only ancient portions being the S. wall and the lower part of the tower (E.E.), and St Bertram's Chapel, which bears the date 1618. In the churchyard stand two Saxon crosses, both nearly complete. The taller is 7 feet high, and has at the base on one side figures of two birds, beak to beak, and on two other sides human figures. Its upper parts are beautifully ornamented with circles or plait-work. The second cross is only 4 feet high, and differs also in having a rounded base. It also has a plait-work design. There is also a fragment of a third cross built into the wall of the S. chapel, and in the Hall gardens is a much worn shaft, to the upper part of which the fragment perhaps belongs. Next in age to these in the church appurtenances comes the very rude Norman font. It is perhaps one of the earliest Norman fonts in England. It is circular,

and is divided by a rude arcade into six panels, containing respectively, two human figures (possibly representing marriage), the Agnus Dei, a dragon with one human head in its jaws and another in its talons, a human figure, another human figure with bound hands, and another dragon with a human head in its jaws. What particular meaning (if any) the very unskilful carver intended his work to convey will probably never be known. Next in date to this comes the E.E. shrine and tomb of St Bertram in the S. chapel. Nothing is certainly known of the saint, though the priests of the Middle Ages as usual supplied the want of history with legend, and the tomb became an object of pilgrimage to the devout, who, it is said, used to crawl through the openings in the shrine and lie upon the tomb cover. It is probable that the church was really dedicated to St Bertram, for Holy Cross day (9th September) is also the day which tradition assigns to the saint. The chapel also contains a tomb with effigies of Robert Meverell of Throwley (1626) and his wife, and a later mural tomb has kneeling figures of their daughter, Lady Cromwell, and her four children. In the arch between this chapel and the nave hang two of the paper wreaths and pairs of white gloves which it was the former custom to carry before the coffin of a maiden. The incongruous N. chapel contains a large monument by Chantrey, representing Mr D. P. Watts, the father of the first Mrs Watts-Russell, on his death-bed in the act of blessing his daughter and her children. One is bound to protest against the charge of sixpence per head now made for viewing the church—a perfectly unjustifiable imposition.

It is hard to conceive anything more beautiful than the situation of the Hall gardens, sloping down to a

great bend of the river Manifold, on whose opposite side rises a high, steep bank thickly covered with woods. In one of the lawns is the spring called "St Bertram's Well," over which in Plot's time there grew an aged ash tree which was regarded with reverence by the villagers. The estate once belonged to the Congreves, and in a rocky recess in the garden Congreve, the dramatist, is said to have written his "Old Bachelor." Most men, one trusts, would have been too much entranced with such a scene of loveliness to give themselves to the dull business of writing a comedy. It is in this garden that the Manifold, having run underground all the way from Darfur Crags, re-emerges from outlets in the rock into the upper air. However, when Dr Johnson and Boswell drove over to Ilam from Ashbourne, the Doctor characteristically refused to believe that these were the waters of the Manifold, "though," says Boswell, "we had the attestation of the gardener, who said he had put in corks where the Manifold sinks into the ground, and had catched them in a net placed before one of the openings where the water bursts out."

Ingestre is 1½ m. from Weston-and-Ingestre Stat. It was long the domain of the Chetwynds, but now belongs entirely to the Earl of Shrewsbury, and supplies his eldest son with the title of his viscounty. Ingestre Hall was a very handsome brick-and-stone mansion of Jacobean date, but in 1882 was almost wholly burnt down. It has, however, been remarkably well reconstructed in its original style. There is a fine park surrounding it. The church (St Mary), which stands close to the Hall, was rebuilt in an Italian style in 1676 by Walter Chetwynd, who otherwise deserves remembrance for his large collections for a county history of Staffordshire, and for his patronage

of Dr Robert Plot, author of the "Natural History of Staffordshire." The church contains monuments to its builder, several later Chetwynds, and some of the later Earls of Shrewsbury.

Ipstones is one of the larger villages of the moorlands. It is 2 m., but very steep miles, from Froghall Stat. Its curious name seems to mean "the look-out stones"—the first syllable being the Anglo-Saxon word "yppe." The church (St Leonard) was rebuilt in a very tasteless style in 1790, but a fine Norman tympanum is preserved on the inside of the S. wall, sculptured with figures of two dragons in combat. It has a beautiful new chancel by G. C. Horsley, built in 1902. At Belmont, 1 m. away, is the curious building called the "Chapel House." It is now a cottage, but was clearly originally intended to be used as a chapel. It was built about 1789 by John Sneyd, the squire of Belmont, during a contention with the patron of Ipstones as to the presentation. The difference was, however, settled before the building of the chapel was finished.

The neighbourhood is peculiarly rich in handsome old stone houses standing in beautiful situations. One of these is Whitehough, formerly called Whitehalgh, and the residence of a family of that name. It bears several dates, the earliest being 1620. Another is Moss Lee, once the mansion of the Hollins family. This has a fine oak staircase and some beautiful mullioned windows; it has on a water-pipe the date 1640. Another is Sharpcliffe, but this has been to some extent remodelled. This also belonged to the Whitehaighs, a James Whitehalgh having married the heiress of the Sharpcliffes in the 15th cent. The scenery round and the views from these houses over the Churnet valley are very charming.

Keele church (St John the Baptist) is wholly

modern, having been pulled down and rebuilt in 1790 and 1867. It contains a table-tomb with effigies of William Sneyd and his wife Clare (Colclough), dated 1613. That the figures are much mutilated is not surprising in view of the facts that in the rebuilding of 1790 they were buried beneath the floor and the tomb on which they rested was broken up.

There was at Keele a preceptory of the Knights Templars, which, after the transfer of their possessions in 1323, was taken over by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, but there are no remains of the buildings.

At Keele Hall are preserved a number of relics from Hulton Abbey (see under Milton).

Kidsgrove is a colliery town, formed into a parish in 1853.

King's Bromley is a village 2½ m. from Armitage Stat. Bromley means "broomy lands"; it was called "King's" because it was a royal manor in early feudal times. Here Leofric, the famous Earl of Mercia, and husband of Godiva, had a house, and here he died in 1057, but his body was removed to Coventry for burial. All traces of his home have long since vanished. The S. wall of the church (All Saints) is of early Norman rubble-work, and contains a window of that period, but the greater part of the building is early Dec., with a Perp. clerestory. The ogee-headed N. doorway should be noticed. There are remains of rood-loft stairs, and fragments of an early 16th cent. screen. The chancel retains a piscina and some ancient stalls, and has on its N. wall a stone book-rest (a very rare feature). There is a good deal of old glass hidden away in a window of the vestry. The pulpit is dated 1656 and the font 1664. The tower is of a good Perp. type, with a square-headed W. doorway of pretty design.

The Manor House is a large building erected in 1755, and is now the home of the Lane family, who are lineal descendants of Colonel John Lane of Bentley Hall, the preserver of Charles II.

Kingsley (1 m. from Froghall Stat.) is so named in Domesday book, and must therefore have been a royal manor before the Conquest. There are one or two collieries close by, which as usual have vulgarized the look of the village. The church (St Werburgh), however, stands beautifully on the lip of the Churnet valley. Its dedication proves that it had a Saxon predecessor, but the present church is wholly modern except the tower, of which the lower part belongs to the early 13th cent. and the top stage to the 14th. At the churchyard gate the stocks are preserved, and also an iron ring to which the bull was chained when he was baited. The old rectory, now used as a farm-house, is a picturesque stone building.

Kingston (1½ m. from Grindley Stat.) is one of the far too numerous Staffordshire villages which lost their ancient churches within comparatively recent years. Kingston church (St John) was Dec. in style, but was mercilessly pulled down in 1861, and a new church built to the E. of the old site. The only relics preserved in the new building are three ancient bells, two of them pre-Reformation in date and bearing invocations to St James and St Edward; an oak chest in the vestry dated 1601; and a mural tablet to Sir Simon Degge (1702). He was a judge and legal writer of some distinction, and during his last years lived at Blythe Bridge Hall in this parish.

Kingswinford is a manufacturing town on the edge of the Black Country. The name was, down to the 12th cent. at least, simply Swinford (*i.e.* swine's ford); it gained its prefix through being a royal

manor. The church (St Mary) is modern, but retains a Norman tympanum over its S. doorway, and the steps and shaft of the churchyard cross, now foolishly topped by an ugly sundial. The subject represented on the tympanum is St Michael slaying the dragon. Close to the main street is a handsome timbered house called Bradley Hall, bearing the date 1596. By the side of one of its chimneys is a hollow leading down from a bedroom through a small aperture to the outer air, and evidently constructed as a means of escape in case of surprise.

Kinver is a small town containing several ancient houses and lying among most beautiful scenery, 4 m. from Stourbridge. Since a tramway has been made from the latter town Kinver has become very popular with Black Country holiday makers. The name was originally "Cynefare," *i.e.* the King's Way, and probably refers to the road to a hunting-lodge of the Mercian kings which stood on Castle Hill (or Baron Hill), 2 m. S.W. Kinver remained a Royal forest of enormous size throughout the Middle Ages; in 1286, for instance, Roger de Somery, Baron of Dudley, was fined 100 marks because his men had, in the excitement of the chase, taken a stag which had succumbed to their arrows a hundred yards within the forest.

The church (St Peter) stands high above the town, and a splendid view to the N. is to be had from the churchyard. The low tower and nave are mainly early Dec., while the chancel and the family chapel of the Foleys are Perp. work of the late 15th cent. Some extraordinary brick arches on the S. side of the chancel represent efforts at restoration made in 1741. The N. aisle is a 19th-cent. addition. There are a piscina and sedilia in the S. aisle, and part of a Norman rood-

loft staircase with an arch above it remains on the N. side of the chancel arch. It has been doubted whether rood-lofts existed in Norman times, but this is a clear case. In the vestry is the table-tomb of Sir Edward Grey (1528), bearing fine brasses of the knight, his two wives, seven sons, and ten daughters. The oak pulpit is a good one, dated 1625. The Foley chapel contains a mutilated effigy said to be that of one John Hampton, and has in one window a few fragments of ancient glass.

The place has some other attractions. One is "Kinver Edge," a hill of remarkably bold aspect, which rewards the climber by a superb view, including the Clent Hills, the Cotswolds, the Malverns, the Habberleys, and the Clees.[1] On its top is a camp, roughly square, no less than 7½ acres in extent, protected, on the two sides which are not precipitous, by a rampart and ditch of enormous proportions. Its origin is doubtless prehistoric. Half-way up the hill is a curious sandstone rock which is hewn out into rooms with doors and windows, and with some aid from bricks and mortar still supplies several families with a home. Its name of "Holy Austin Rock" seems to show that some part of it was inhabited as a hermitage in pre-Reformation times. Similar rock-cottages exist on a hill-side on the other side of the town, but these are no longer in use as dwellings.

Knutton is 1 m. from Newcastle-under-Lyme. It became a parish in 1875.

Lapley (3 m. from Gailey Stat.) had a Benedictine Priory, founded in 1061 by Burchard, son of Earl Algar of Mercia, and brother of Edwin and Morcar. Burchard accompanied Aldred, Archbishop of York, on a mission to Rome, and on his return journey fell sick at the Abbey of St Remigius at Rheims, where,

[1] Kinver Edge has now been given to the nation (1918).

as he lay dying, the abbot prevailed upon him to make him a grant of land for religious purposes. Earl Algar confirmed the grant, and added to it lands at Meaford and Hamstall Ridware. At the suppression of the alien priories by Henry V. in 1414 Lapley was sold to Tong College, and, in the reign of Edward VI., passed with the other possessions of that college to the Manners family. The interesting church (All Saints) is the only relic of the priory. It has a central tower and was originally cruciform, but has unfortunately been shorn of both transepts. The orientation of the nave and chancel varies very considerably, the latter inclining several degrees more S. than the former. The style is mainly E.E., with a Norman window in the chancel, and several others which are Perp. The E. window (*c.* 1230) is composed of five lancet windows in one, and is of much interest as showing the evolution of tracery. Other noticeable features are: E.E. sedilia and trefoil-headed piscina; an alabaster slab in the chancel with incised effigy of a priest; and the octagonal Dutch font with bas-reliefs of incidents in the life of our Lord. There seems to be no record of the history of the font. The tower is exceptionally fine. The lower stage is Norman, and the upper one, with a pretty quatrefoil window on each face, large belfry windows and a band of ornament beneath the parapet, is Perp. The date, 1637, on one of the tower buttresses, must refer to the erection of the buttresses only. The stump of the churchyard cross remains.

Lapley House (externally modernized) belonged, at the time of the Civil War, to one Peters, a squire of Parliamentarian sympathies, and was garrisoned by him. A lively Royalist account of the successful attack upon it on 21st December 1643 by Captain Heavingham,

commander of the Royalist garrison at Chillington Hall, is extant. "The Captain, having dealt with one Master Collier, servant to Master Peters, to assist and direct him in his design, about twelve of the clock at night marched privately from Chillington three miles to Lapley. Being come to Lapley, they began to rear ladders to the court wall, which gave the rebels an alarm; notwithstanding, the Captain and six more got up the ladder and leaped down into the yard, where they passed some blows against 15 rebels (for so many were they on guard in the gate-house); but two or three of the rebels being slain and as many hurt, gave the Captain time to open the gate and let the rest of the musketeers into the yard, who received some shot from the rebels, but without loss, except one hurt. This done, the Captain reared ladders to the windows, and most valiantly entered in despite of the rebels (about 70 in number), whom he took prisoners, with all their arms, ammunition and baggage. Twelve musketeers kept garrison in the church adjoining, who, hearing the house already taken, yielded themselves prisoners, and were, with their fellows, sent all prisoners to Chillington." Lieutenant Stanley, with twenty-four men, was left in Lapley House, and a cornet and ten men in the church, and next day they succeeded in beating off an avenging force from Stafford, although, according to this account, it consisted of as many as 400 men and two pieces of cannon and a "case of drakes." The writer admits, however, that a timely reinforcement of 100 horse under Colonel Leveson assisted the gallant Stanley in the final stages of his victory.

Leek is known as "the capital of the moorlands," and is one of the centres of the silk manufacturing industry in England. It has one of the largest weekly

markets remaining in the county. At the head of the market-place is an old-fashioned stone house which is the reputed birth-place of the first Earl of Macclesfield. The dedication of the parish church to Edward the Confessor would prove that Leek possessed a church before the Conquest, even without the testimony of its four Saxon crosses. The largest of these is about 12 ft. high, and perfect save for the arms of the cross. The lower half is cylindrical, and the upper half rectangular; it bears the usual plait-work designs. The second cross is about 6 ft. high and wholly rectangular. It must have been of very fine design when complete, but has been terribly mutilated. The third is a fragment built into the W. side of the S. porch. The fourth is in one respect the most interesting, as it bears a figure-subject—apparently that of Our Lord bearing the cross to Calvary. There are remains of another figure above, which was perhaps that of Our Lord in glory. This stone is now in the Nicholson Institute, Leek. Against the E. wall of the churchyard is an ancient coffin-lid with a stone bearing the restored inscription, "H.Q.C.C., MCLXXX." The initials are believed to mean "Hugo Quintus Comes Cestriae," for it is known that the fifth Earl of Chester was buried at Leek.

The ancient portions of the church are mainly Dec. These are the tower and the two aisles, each of which contains a fine circular window. There is a Renaissance S. porch dated 1670, and churchyard gateway dated 1684. A fine brass in the N. aisle bears kneeling figures of John Ashenhurst (1597), his four wives and ten children. At the W. end is a tablet, formerly in the churchyard, to William Trafford of Swythamley, who died in 1697 at the age of 93. It bears the figure of a man with a flail and sheaf of

corn, and the words "NOW THUS" above. This is explained by the story that in order to escape death at the hands of a party of Parliamentarian soldiers he feigned imbecility by constantly repeating the words "Now thus" as he thrashed corn, but as a fact the crest and motto were used by the Traffords long before the time of the Rebellion.

The "Butter Cross," a monolith of millstone grit, which used to dignify the market-place, has been needlessly removed to the cemetery, and ignominiously utilized as a lamp-post. It bears remains of the inscription "Given by J. Jolliffe, Esq., 1671," and perhaps replaced an earlier stone.

Leek possesses two other churches of the 19th cent., the one dedicated to St Luke, and the other, All Saints, Compton, a handsome modern building—consecrated 1887 (Norman Shaw).

We learn from the old Chronicle of Croxden (p. 119), "that the church of *Lek* was burnt down, together with the whole town, by accident, in 1297."

A notable event in the history of Leek was the visit of Prince Charles Edward and his Scotch troops. They arrived in the town from Macclesfield on Monday, 2nd December 1745, to the terror of the inhabitants, but the Scotchmen seem to have behaved excellently. They left for Derby the next day, but were back again on the following Saturday in full retreat towards home, though still in good order. Old women in the town proudly remembered to their dying day that they were among the girls with whom the Prince, attracted by their looks, had shaken hands.

In a valley outside the town stand the poor remnants of the beautifully named Dieu-la-cresse Abbey. The abbey (Cistercian) was originally at Polton on the

THE ROCHES, NEAR LEEK

Welsh border of Cheshire, but it was there so much exposed to the attacks of the Welsh that in 1214 Ranulph de Blundeville, sixth Earl of Chester (the builder of Chartley Castle) removed it to Leek. According to the story, the name of the abbey—"God prosper it!"—arose from the exclamation of the Countess of Chester on hearing of her husband's project. The abbey, like the other North Staffordshire Cistercian foundations at Croxden and Hulton, possessed large estates, its yearly income amounting, at the time of its suppression in 1538, to about £250 (equal to about £3000 of our money). The remains are chiefly of the church, viz., the lower parts of the four great piers at the intersection of the nave and transepts, and of the S. transept. Many of the ancient stones, some beautifully carved, and portions of tracery, may be seen built into the walls of the adjoining farm-house and outbuildings.

On the dissolution the abbey was sold to Sir Ralph Bagnall, and in 1597 came to the Rudyerds, who built the handsome half-timbered house close to the ruins, bearing the date 1612. Near by also is a hermitage in the rock, with traces of fireplace, roof-plates, and door-jambs. Nothing is known of its history.

The hills to the N. of Leek, called "the Roches," have been described as "the most picturesque hills in England." They are formed of dark millstone grit rock, the contortions of which certainly give them a most fantastic outline—jagged and toothed and most forbidding in appearance. Those known as the Five Clouds rise highest (over 1500 ft.), but Hen Cloud, standing apart from the rest, is perhaps the most impressive. They amazed exceedingly the good Dr Plot, who seems to have never before met with any scenery more rugged than that of the neighbourhood of

Oxford and the Thames valley, and cannot conceal his astonishment at "the vast rocks, or Roches as they call them, that bear no grass but here and there a turf in some cleft or hollow, but standing as bare as a stone wall, some of them kissing the clouds with their tops and running along in mountainous ridges for some miles together." "When I came to Leek," he pursues, "and saw the Hen Cloud and Leek Roches, my mind was heightened to see such vast rocks and such really stupendous prospects, which I had never seen before, or could have believed to be anywhere but in picture."

Leigh church (All Saints) is a cruciform building, rebuilt by the elder Pugin in 1846. It contains a very fine marble table-tomb with effigies of Sir John Aston (1523) and his wife Joan. There is some ancient glass in the chancel, and much good modern glass, three of the windows being after designs by Burne-Jones. At Lower Leigh is an exceptionally perfect specimen of a homestead moat, called Blythewood Moat, or Bitternsdale.

Lichfield, the cathedral city of Staffordshire, has a quieter and more old-world atmosphere than any other of the larger towns in the county. The origin of its name is somewhat doubtful, but it almost certainly has nothing to do with the word "lich" (*i.e.* dead), though on that supposition a story of a massacre of British Christians at Lichfield was invented in the 17th cent., and the city arms were decorated with mangled bodies and limbs. It is more likely that the name means marsh-land, and is derived from the same root as the modern "lake." The city owes its foundation to St Chad, who, on his consecration as fifth Bishop of Mercia in 669, moved the headquarters of the see from Repton to Lichfield. The church which he

built was not, however, on the site of the present cathedral, but at Stowe, half a mile away. The town has little history apart from that of the cathedral, though it returned two members to Parliament as early as 1304, and has been an incorporated city since 1548, and a county in itself, electing its own sheriff, since 1554. The first cathedral on the present site was built by Hedda (Bishop, 691-721) and consecrated in 700, with a dedication to St Peter. In the time of Bishop Higbert (785-801) the see was, through the ambition of the great Offa, raised by the Pope's order to an archbishopric, with supremacy over Canterbury, but in 803, only seven years after Offa's death, the old order was restored. The cathedral was doubtless plundered and burnt by the Danes, and in 1075 the headquarters of the see were removed to Chester, and in 1090 to Coventry, though Lichfield continued to occupy secondary position. The cathedral was rebuilt in the Norman fashion by Bishop Roger de Clinton (1129-1148), but entirely pulled down and built afresh during the next century. Bishop Walter de Langton (1296-1321) fortified the Close with walls and towers. Thenceforth until the Reformation, the history of the see is mainly the story of the wrangles between the monks of Coventry and the canons of Lichfield, who possessed alternately the right of electing the bishops. The struggle ended, of course, in the elimination of the Coventry foundation at the Reformation. The three sieges of the cathedral during the Civil War form the most notable and the most disastrous chapter in its chronicles. The Close was garrisoned for the King in February 1643, under the command of the Earl of Chesterfield and Sir Richard Dyott, and the siege began on March 2nd, but the leader of the besieging party, the fanatic Lord Brooke, was on the same day killed by a shot through the

forehead from Sir Richard's son, "dumb Dyott," who had posted himself on the central tower of the cathedral. The circumstance of Brooke's death occurring on St Chad's day, and at the hands of one who was afflicted and therefore regarded as the especial agent of God, caused the event to be loudly and universally hailed as a miracle by the Royalist party. The house near which Brooke was standing at the time of his death is in Dam Street, and bears a commemorative inscription. The event only infuriated the besiegers; Sir John Gell took the leadership, and on March 5th forced the garrison to surrender. The damage that had been done to the cathedral was terrible; all the stained glass had, of course, been destroyed, and the central steeple had been shattered and had fallen upon the building. The victors, as usual, not only robbed the cathedral of everything of value, but committed acts of hideous sacrilege. "Every day," says Dugdale, "they hunted a cat with hounds through the church, delighting themselves with the echo from the goodly vaulted roof." But they were not long left to such amusements. Prince Rupert arrived before the Close on April 10th, and on the 20th captured it, the garrison being allowed to march out with full honours. Colonel Bagot was placed in command, and held the Close till July 1646, when in the general ruin of the King's affairs it was again taken, the garrison being the last in Staffordshire to surrender. The King had lodged in the Close twice during 1645. John Hacket (1661-1670) was the first bishop appointed after the Restoration, and so nobly set himself to the task of repairing the cathedral as richly to deserve the title of "its second founder." In view of the greatness of his services it is not difficult to forgive him his few mistakes—notably that of setting up a statue of

Charles II. in the central position on the W. front. He also altered the style of the see to "Lichfield and Coventry"—a title which it kept until the name of Coventry finally disappeared in 1840. This cathedral suffered even more than most during the 18th and early 19th cents. One of the deans removed several of the original statues on the W. front, because he feared they would tumble on his head, and grudged the small sum necessary to secure them. Most of the beauty of the building was for the time entirely destroyed by the so-called architects, James Wyatt and James Potter, who gave it a covering of Roman cement without and yellow whitewash within, and remodelled the old stone statues on the exterior in plaster. In recent years a thorough restoration and beautifying has taken place under Sir Gilbert and Mr J. O. Scott.

The cathedral, though one of the smallest in England, has great claims to be considered one of the most lovely. It owes its charm mainly to its unique possession of three slender spires (long known as the "Ladies of the Vale"), to the mellow, ruddy glow of its stone, and to the rich decoration which adorns its every part. Its building dates are 1200-1340; save for modern alterations it is therefore entirely in the E.E. and Dec. styles.

The most artistically pleasing view of the building is that from the Minster Pool, but from thence one misses its most splendid architectural feature—that is, the *W. Front.* By giving the front proper only one window, its builders secured an immense area for adornment, and they made full use of the opportunity, covering the stone with statues (no less than 113 in number), arcading, panelling, trefoils, quatrefoils, and cinquefoils. Though the present front is almost wholly a modern restoration, carried out under Mr J. O. Scott

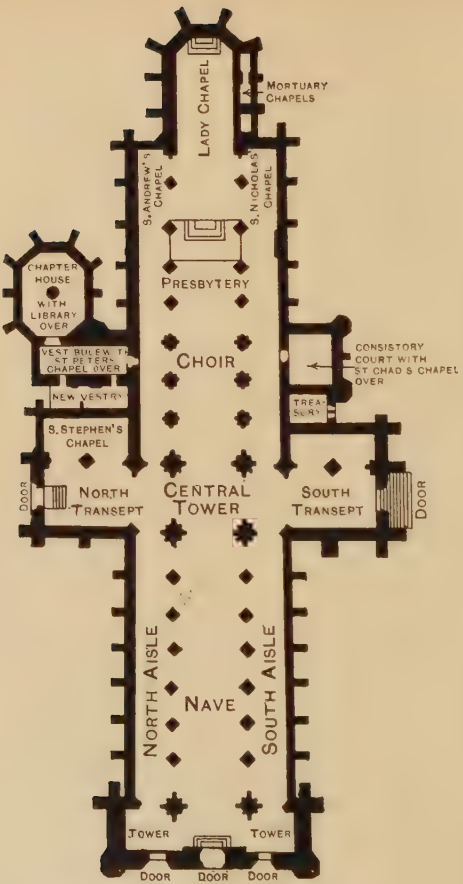
in 1877-84, it is a careful and impressive reproduction of the old work. It exhibits clearly the difference in styles between the lowest stage (including the row of kings), which is *c.* 1280, and the next, which is *c.* 1300. The only ancient statues are five in the highest row on the north-western tower.

Both the western towers and spires have been rebuilt in the Perp. style. The central spire (rebuilt by Bishop Hacket) is 252 feet high, and the western spires are about 193 feet. The W. doorway is perhaps the richest piece of work in all the rich cathedral, though here, again, all is modern reproduction except the bas-relief of Our Lord in Glory above the central pillar, and the delicate iron-work on the doors themselves.

The rest of *the exterior* has also been mainly modernized, with the exception of the N. aisle of the nave. The most noticeable features are the doorways in the N. and S. transepts. The N. doorway is deeply recessed, and retains some very beautiful 13th-cent. carving. The S. doorway is similar, but less fine. In the gable above it is a charming rose-window. The effigy in a recess to the R. of it is of some unknown archdeacon. An admirable and refreshing taste has been shown in the selection of statues which stand upon the cathedral walls; for interspersed among the usual saints are figures of Izaak Walton, George Herbert, Elias Ashmole, and Dr Johnson. Of Ashmole's character perhaps too little is known to speak positively, but each of the others was in his own way a saint indeed.

The beauty of *the Nave* consists in its exquisitely pure, feminine grace. Its date is *c.* 1250-1280, so that it belongs to the period when the E.E. style was merging into the Dec. It will be noticed that the

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: THE NAVE, LOOKING EAST



LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Total length, 403 feet. Width of Transepts, 140 feet.
Length of Nave, 175 feet. Width of Nave, 65 feet 8 inches.

orientations of the nave and choir (for some reason not yet quite clear) are not the same, the latter inclining some ten degrees to the N. of the true E. The beautiful capitals of the clustered pillars are mostly unrestored. The richness of the dog-tooth ornament on the large triforium should not be overlooked, nor the unusual form of the clerestory windows (curvilinear triangles enclosing three circles). In the N. aisle is a monumental tablet to the memory of the preposterous Anna Seward and her relatives, with some lines by Sir Walter Scott, not in his best vein. Close by is a tablet to the memory of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, erected by a grateful lady who had benefited by her introduction of vaccination, and another to Gilbert Walmesley, registrar of the diocese, and an early benefactor of Dr Johnson, who wrote of him that "he was not able to name a man of equal knowledge." In the S. aisle is the monument of Dean Addison (1703), the father of the essayist, and also two curious semi-effigies, said to be both of canons, with the sculpture of the bodies entirely omitted.

The *S. Transept* was built about 1220, but in the 15th cent. the original lofty wooden roof was replaced by a low stone vault, and Perp. windows inserted. In its aisle are Westmacott's monuments to Dr Johnson and David Garrick, but the dust of both lies, of course, in Westminster Abbey. Other monuments in the same place are one of Egyptian design to officers and men of the 80th (Staffordshire) Regiment, with the old regimental colours and other colours taken from the Sikhs, and one to Admiral Sir William Parker (1866), the last survivor of Nelson's captains. The window above the latter contains some of the splendid Herkenrode glass left over after filling the windows in the Lady Chapel. On the W. side of

the transept is a tablet to John Saville, vicar-choral of the cathedral, with some commemorative verses by Anna Seward, in a very Sewardian style. The lady had for some years ill-concealed her tender feelings for him, and in her will requested that, if there should be an objection to reopening her family vault, she should be buried by the side of Saville. Four E.E. lancet windows remain in the wall above this tablet.

The *N. Transept*, which is a few years later than the S., has a (restored) five-light E.E. window on its N. side. Beside the door is the repulsive effigy of the skeleton of Dean Heywood (1492). The companion effigy which represented him in full canonicals has disappeared. The aisle of this transept until recently contained the organ, but is now fitted as a chapel, known as St Stephen's.

In *the Choir* is the earliest portion of the present building, viz., the lower portion of the three western bays (*c.* 1200). The difference between this work and the five Dec. bays of the presbytery and retro-choir (*c.* 1330) is apparent. Possibly the Black Death prevented the completion of the change to Dec. The only one of the clerestory windows which retains its Dec. tracery is the easternmost on the S. side; the others have Perp. tracery, inserted by Bishop Hacket. The beautiful quatrefoil ornament on the splays of these windows is very effective. The would-be magnificent reredos hardly succeeds in being more than gaudy. The stalls and bishop's throne are good carved work executed by Samuel Evans of Ellastone, the original of "Seth Bede." The canopies of the sedilia are portions of the early Perp. altar screen.

The three western bays of both *Choir Aisles*, like those of the Choir, are E.E. There is some quaint

carving about the eastern Dec. bays. The N. aisle (originally St Andrew's Chapel) has two fine modern monuments: Chantrey's kneeling figure of Bishop Ryder (1836), and G. F. Watts' effigy of Bishop Lonsdale (1867), lying on a table-tomb designed by Sir Gilbert Scott.

In the N. choir aisle is the entrance to a *vestibule* leading to the *Chapter House*. Both are *c.* 1240, that is, the same date as the N. transept. The vestibule has on both sides very finely carved arcading, the thirteen niches of which were probably used by the poor whose feet were washed on Maundy Thursday. The Chapter-house is an octagonal building with a clustered pillar in the centre, and a fine vaulted roof. The detail of the arcading round the walls and its carved work, deserves close study. A solitary trace of wall-painting work remains over the doorway; the subject was the Assumption. The windows contain scenes from the early history of the cathedral.

Over the vestibule is the *muniment room*, originally St Peter's Chapel. It still shows signs of the damage it sustained through the fall of the central tower. Over the Chapter-house is the *Library*, which contains a valuable collection of books. The most notable are, perhaps: an illuminated MS. of the "Canterbury Tales"; the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" of Pope Nicholas IV.; several rare English Bibles; and Dr Johnson's copy of "South's Sermons," with passages marked by him for quotation in the Dictionary.

The famous *Lady Chapel* was begun about 1324, the cost being defrayed out of funds bequeathed for the purpose by Bishop Walter de Langton, and is a beautiful example of Dec. work. The ten figures of virgin saints are of course modern, but the brackets and

canopies of their niches are ancient. The chief glory of the chapel is, however, its glass. The seven most easterly of the nine windows all contain 16th-cent. Flemish glass from the dissolved Abbey of Herkenrode, near Liege. The pieces of the glass in some of the windows are much jumbled, but nothing can mar the splendid glow of the colours, which seem to flood the chapel with sunshine on the dullest day. The windows, taking them in order from the R., represent (1) Founders and benefactors of the abbey, attended by their patron-saints. (2) The abbey church, with three separate pictures of the Virgin and Child, and other benefactors with saints. (3) Christ scourged, Christ crowned with thorns, and the Annunciation. (4) The Ascension, Christ and the Two Disciples at Emmaus, and (in modern glass imitating the old) the Three Marys. (5) The Last Supper, the Entry into Jerusalem, and Christ Betrayed in the Garden. (6) The Day of Judgment, the Day of Pentecost, and St Thomas reproved for his doubts. (7) Christ delivered to be Crucified, Christ bearing His Cross, the Descent from the Cross, the Resurrection. The two westerly windows have also good ancient Flemish glass, dated 1571, that on the N. representing baptized infants received by their guardian spirits, Faith, Fortitude, and Love, and the Divine Presence; while that on the S. shows the Death of the Virgin, surrounded by the Apostles, and her entrance into glory. On the S. side of the chapel, and coeval with it, are three so-called mortuary chapels, the central one of which contains an effigy of Bishop Selwyn; who came to Lichfield from the see of New Zealand. Dr J. C. Cox has shown good reasons for supposing that the E. and central chambers were used as sacristies for keeping the endowment charters, vest-

ments, and vessels belonging to the chantry of Our Lady, and that the W. chamber served similarly for the chantry for the soul of King Edward I. (both founded by Bishop Langton), the masses of which were celebrated in the Lady Chapel. On a table in the retro-choir is shown the Latin manuscript, erroneously called "St Chad's Gospels." It is written on vellum, and now ends abruptly at St Luke, iii. 9. Its elaborate and once splendid illuminations show it to be Irish work, probably of about the end of the 7th cent., *i.e.* a little later than the time of St Chad. Notes on its pages show that it was acquired by Llandaff Cathedral, and that it has been at Lichfield since as early as about 950. It was preserved during the Civil War by the Precentor, William Higgins.

The monuments in the *S. Choir Aisle* (originally St Nicholas' Chapel) give it a peculiar interest. At its E. end is Chantrey's famous masterpiece of "The Sleeping Children," *i.e.* the two daughters of the Rev. William Robinson, Prebendary of the cathedral. It was one of his earliest works, and firmly established his fame. Its pathos is indeed perfectly free from sentimentality, and its execution delightfully natural. Its creator is said to have been so well pleased with his work that he came every year to gaze at it. In the window above it is some of the Herkenrode glass, with a curious representation of the Trinity, and on the wall beside it is a 14th cent. fresco of the Crucifixion. Of the many other tombs in this aisle only the most important can be here mentioned. These are (taking them in order from E. to W.): another semi-effigy, said to be of one Canon Strangeways; the table-tomb of Bishop Hacket, with effigy; the monument of Colonel Bagot, killed at Naseby (son of the defender of the Close); the tomb with effigy of Sir Humphrey

Stanley, who underwent the canonical penance of scourging (see under Tixall), and is represented naked to the waist; the effigy of Bishop Hugh de Patteshall (opposite Stanley's), who died in 1241; the effigy of Bishop William de Langton, who died in 1296; a medallion in memory of Erasmus Darwin, author of "The Loves of the Plants," and grandfather of Charles Darwin; the table-tomb of Archdeacon Hodson (1855), and also the monument of his son, "Hodson of Hodson's Horse," the Indian Mutiny hero.

In this aisle is the entrance to *the Sacristy*, now used as the Consistory Court. Its date is probably about 1220. It contains some of Bishop Hacket's stalls. Over it is the interesting *Chapel of St Chad's Head*, restored for worship, after long misuse, as lately as 1897. Outside it is a Perp. gallery (*c.* 1481), from which the relics were exhibited to the pilgrims in the aisle below. The chapel has good lancet windows, a piscina, and an aumbry for the custody of the relics.

Adjoining the Sacristy is *the Treasury*, now used as a receptacle for odds and ends. On its W. side are the aumbries in which the most precious possessions of the cathedral are kept.

The Cathedral Close is beautifully tended, and has now long worn the garment of peace. Its walls are entirely gone, save for a fragment in the garden of the palace, and another fragment and a turret built into a house at the S.-E. corner. On its N. side is the Bishop's Palace (built 1687, but since enlarged by the addition of wings). In the 18th cent., when the bishops still lived at Eccleshall, it was successively the residence of Gilbert Walmesley, Canon Seward, and Anna Seward. In Walmesley's day, as Boswell says, "it

LICHFIELD: BIRTHPLACE AND STATUE OF DR. JOHNSON

was the scene of many happy hours in Johnson's early life," and in 1776 he and Boswell supped there with the Sewards. Next to this is the red-brick Deanery, the early home of Addison. In the shady walk before the Palace and Deanery, called the "Dean's Walk," George Farquhar (whose regiment was for a time stationed at Lichfield) laid one of the scenes of his lively "Beaux' Stratagem." At the junction of the Close with Beacon Street is the house of Dr Erasmus Darwin; and another house in the Close was in 1771 the joint home of those equally amazing men, Richard Lovell Edgeworth and Thomas Day.

But after the cathedral the most interesting building in Lichfield is Johnson's birthplace, which has belonged to the city since 1900, and is used as a Johnson Museum. It is a good-sized, yellow-plastered corner house, with the air of being as impatient of affectations as Johnson himself. It was bought by Michael Johnson, the bookseller, in 1707 (the year after his marriage and two years before Samuel's birth), and was occupied by him till his death in 1731. It then came to the Doctor, who, by his will, left the proceeds of its sale to distant relatives. The large corner room was, of course, the book shop; the small one on the left of the side-entrance the family living-room, and the room over the shop that in which Samuel was born. Before the house is Lucas's heavy statue of the sage seated in his chair, with reliefs on the base representing in a very quaint style (1) the infant Johnson seated on his father's shoulders listening to Sacheverell's preaching in the cathedral, (2) his triumphal progress to school on the shoulders of his school-fellows, (3) his famous penance in Uttoxeter market-place for his filial disobedience. On the other side of the market-square is a statue of Boswell, recently made and presented to

Lichfield by Mr Percy Fitzgerald. Next the Johnson house stands quite unaltered the quaint "Three Crowns" Inn, where Johnson and Boswell stayed in 1776. Here an annual supper is now held in Johnson's honour on his birthday (Sept. 18th), when the dishes are always of the substantial character which pleased him. Another house which should be viewed by the good Johnsonian is "Red Court," in Tamworth Street, built by Johnson's step-daughter, Lucy Porter. Johnson stayed with her here whenever he came to Lichfield alone. There are also the "Friary," a house in the centre of the town, where lived a certain Mrs Cobb, and Upper Stowe House (Miss Aston's), and Lower Stowe House (her sister, Mrs Gastrel's), two good Queen Anne residences, with beautiful gardens, just outside the city. All these ladies were life-long friends of Johnson. Lower Stowe House has other memories also, having been in 1770 the residence of Thomas Day (afterwards author of "Sandford and Merton"), who brought thither the child he was training up to be his wife, and tested her courage by firing blank cartridges at her petticoats.

The churches of Lichfield proper are of little interest except through their Johnsonian associations. St Mary's, close to the Johnson house, has been entirely rebuilt, the spire in 1853 and the rest in 1870, but the register contains the entry of Johnson's baptism on the day of his birth. St Michael's—standing high above the Icknield Street—has a Dec. E. window and a Perp. tower and spire, but has been frequently altered. There is a restored effigy of a civilian in the chancel, and the octagonal font is of good work for its date, 1669. In the centre aisle are buried Johnson's father, mother, and brother, with a long and warm-hearted Latin inscription of his composition above them.

St Chad's Church, by the side of the pretty pool at Stowe, is, however, noteworthy for its own sake as well as for its memories. It stands on the site of the church built by St Chad, and close by the site of the oratory in which he died (2nd March 672). His body was originally buried in the church, but was soon removed to the cathedral. His bones suffered some strange adventures after the Reformation, and the Roman Catholic cathedral at Birmingham now claims to possess some of them. Stowe church is a little marred outwardly by the inconceivably stupid addition of a brick clerestory, but it has some fine features, notably a beautiful E.E. trefoil-headed S. doorway, and a fine nave arcade in the same style. It has many additions of the late Dec. period, to which belong most of the windows (the tracery of the E. window is of very rich design) and the tower. It will be noticed that the S. wall was originally formed by five gables. The font, which dates from about 1475, is good, and one of the bells bears the date 1455, and the inscription "O B (blessed) Ladi Mari." To the Johnsonian the church is interesting as containing a tablet in the chancel to Lucy Porter, and a modern brass to Catharine Chambers, the faithful servant of Johnson's parents. Boswell relates the tender farewell which Johnson took of her. In a cottage garden adjoining the church is a well (with an ugly stone erection over it) which is said to have been that used by St Chad.

The almshouses called St John's Hospital (close to the City Railway Stat.) are given a very curious appearance by their row of eight massive brick chimneys, which encroach upon the pavement. The Hospital was built about 1495 by Bishop William

Smyth, the founder also of Brasenose College, Oxford. It has been said that "when chimneys were invented these were added to the building"—an absurd statement, for chimneys had been in use since about 1300 at least. The Hospital Chapel has been virtually rebuilt under the guise of restoration.

King Edward VI.'s Grammar School (which stood almost opposite the chapel) was rebuilt in 1850, and the school itself has been removed. The school's famous pupils include Elias Ashmole, Joseph Addison, Samuel Johnson, and David Garrick. Addison is said to have chiefly distinguished himself there by organizing a "barring-out" of the master.

The annual festival of the "Greenhill Bower," held on Whit Monday, is a curious survival of the yearly "court of array" of citizens and their arms. It is now a species of "beanfeast," with a sort of Lord Mayor's show on a small scale for its main attraction.

The story of George Fox's visit to Lichfield is too curious to be left unnoticed. His own Journal recounts the incident, which occurred in the winter of 1651, a month or two after the Battle of Worcester. As he was travelling by Lichfield, he tells us, he was commanded by the Lord to pull off his shoes and to go into the city, where he conceived himself impelled to go through the streets crying with a loud voice, "Woe to the bloody city of Lichfield!" It was literally so that he saw it, for as he went there seemed to him to be a channel of blood running down the streets, and the market-place appeared like a pool of blood. He was puzzled afterwards, he records, to know why this duty had been laid upon him, and happening to hear of the mythical Christian martyrs, was convinced that he had been sent for the purpose of keeping alive their

memory. It is a strange, and in a manner a touching, incident in the life of a wonderful man.

Longdon is a village 1½ m. from Armitage. The name means Long Hill. The church (St James) is of much interest, and affords a good architectural object-lesson, having examples of every style. The nave is Norman, with a well-carved S. doorway, and a less elaborate N. door, the latter unfortunately hidden externally by an unnecessary modern annexe used for storing odds and ends. The glory of the church, however, is the chancel arch, a splendid example of chevron-pattern sculpture. The basin of the font is also Norman, but somewhat plain in its carving. A large portion of the nave walls has been removed to make way for two transepts—a good Perp. one on the S., and a large modern one, added in 1871, on the N. The former was built about 1550 by John Stoneywell, a native of Longdon, who became Abbot of Pershore in Worcestershire. His monogram, with the dove, Agnus Dei, and mitre, is carved on the buttresses between the church and the chapel. The chapel afterwards became the family chapel of the Ormes, and now serves the same purpose for the Forsters. It has several monuments to members of both families. There are traces of a blocked squint to the chancel. A single E.E. lancet close to the S. door shows that the Norman windows were removed as early as the 13th cent. The chancel is an early example of E.E. work, and in two windows retains some ancient glass, with kneeling figures of monks, but the eastern lancets have been replaced by a Dec. window. The tower is also Dec.

Longnor is a small moorland town on the Upper Manifold, in the north-eastern corner of the county, 3 m. from Hindlow Stat. It was called in Domesday Book

Longenalre—*i.e.* the tall alder-tree. The church (St Bartholomew) was rebuilt in 1780, but contains an early Norman font. In the churchyard is a stone to the memory of William Billinge, born at Fawfieldhead in 1679, who fought at the capture of Gibraltar in 1704, at Ramillies in 1706, and in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, and died in 1791, aged 112. Longnor possesses a market hall, in which considerable business was once done, but owing to the lack of a railway there is practically none nowadays.

Longsdon has a station at Wall Grange. It became a parish only in 1906.

Longton is the most easterly of the Pottery towns. It was usually called by the undistinguished name of Lane End until about the middle of the 19th cent. It became a corporate borough in 1865, and at various times since its bounds have been extended to include the townships of Dresden, Florence, and Normacot. It had in 1901 a population of 35,815. The first church in the town was built in 1763-4, and the first parish was not formed until 1839, Longton having until then been only a chapelry in the parish of Stoke-on-Trent.

Loxley is a hamlet 2½ m. from Uttoxeter. It claims associations with Robin Hood, although the Loxley with which he is generally connected is near Sheffield. However, there is preserved at Loxley Hall a horn, apparently ancient, bearing the initials "R. H.," and also the three horse-shoes crest of the Ferrers family, from whom Loxley passed to the Kynnersleys (its present owners) so long ago as 1327. The whole matter is a curious tangle, and deserves an attempt to unravel it.

Madeley (formerly called Madeley-under-Lyme) is a largeish village on the Shropshire border. The

church (All Saints) is a picturesque building, mainly Perp. in character. The tower, which differs from most church-towers in the county in having an external stair-turret, is of 16th cent. date, but the parapet and pinnacles are modern. The large S. porch was rebuilt in the 17th cent. The N. arcade, a single lancet window in the N. wall of the nave, and the chancel arch are remaining features of the E.E. church. The N. wall of the nave is of the late 14th cent. The S. arcade, S. wall of the nave and both transepts are all Perp. There is a piscina in the E. wall of each transept, and the doorway to the rood-loft remains in the S. transept. There is a good parclose screen between the S. transept and aisle, and the pulpit is ornate Jacobean work. The chancel was built in 1872, but the chapel N. of it is Perp. In the N. transept is a fine table-tomb with incised figures of Randolph and Isabella Egerton (1522), and there is a brass to John and Ellen Egerton (1528). But perhaps the most interesting tomb is that of John Offley (1658) whom Izaak Walton made immortal by dedicating to him "The Compleat Angler." The present Earl of Crewe is a direct descendant of Offley's, one of Offley's grandsons having taken the name of Crewe on acquiring that estate through his wife, and the Offley manor of Madeley thus belongs to the Earl.

The site of the Old Manor House, where Offley lived, is about 1½ m. away, but unhappily the only vestiges of the buildings are a ruined stone gateway and some mounds and trenches. An engraving in Plot's "Staffordshire" shows it to have been a splendid timbered mansion.

Madeley Old Hall is a fine timbered house in the village, bearing the date 1647 and the quaintly derisive inscription, 'WALK, KNAVE; WHAT LOOKEST AT?"

Maer lies in a beautifully wooded district 1½ m. from Whitmore Stat. The name is simply "mere," and is derived from the large pool close to the hall. The little church (St Peter), like several others in the neighbourhood, is mainly 17th cent. Gothic, but both chancel and nave were greatly modernised during a restoration of 1880. The only ancient feature is the inner S. doorway, which retains its late Norman capitals and imposts. The total height of the tower is only 34 ft.

The vicarage is an old house, built in 1580 by Sir John Bowyer, but has been enlarged.

Above the junction of the highway with the road to the village stands Byrth Hill, a wooded height which is crowned by an ancient fortified camp, about 9 acres in extent. Nothing is known of its history, but the neighbouring place-names of War Hill, King's Bank and Camp Hill, seem to show that in some far-away time the site was of much importance.

The valleys of the Manifold and its tributary, *the Hamps*, are, in point of beauty, among the most precious possessions of Staffordshire. They differ in character from the other moorland dales in being, generally speaking, less thickly wooded, less rocky and less steep-sided, and, in a word, more homely, but nevertheless they contain at certain spots rock scenery which in grandeur perhaps surpasses anything of the sort in the other dales, and their bare hill scenery has its own attraction. These hills, moreover, teem with memories of prehistoric man, for in their sides are the caves in which he dwelt in life, and on almost every summit is one of the barrows in which his body was placed or his ashes buried. The rivers themselves are in their way natural curiosities through their strange habit of diving into subterranean channels.

IN THE HAMPS VALLEY

The Hamps rises under Thorncliff Bank, and runs thence through wild and lonely country past Onecote to Winkhill. Here it meets the railway from Leek to Waterhouses, and at Waterhouses, where the ordinary gauge railway ends, the Hamps in the summer months disappears, as if to keep cool, through rock fissures in its bed. The dry bed is of course always visible, though generally half-filled with the butter-bur (*Petasites vulgaris*), and after a rainy night the capacity of the subterranean channel is soon exhausted, and the water is to be met coming down its upper bed again like a miniature "bore." The curiosity is obviously not worth what it costs in the lack of rippling water, but the fissures are so numerous that up to the present all attempts to stop them with cement have signally failed.

At Waterhouses the Light Railway, opened in 1904, starts, and thence accompanies the Hamps down stream to Beeston Tor—the point where (during the winter) the river falls into the Manifold—then following the course of the Manifold up stream as far as Hulme End. On the whole, there is little to regret in the advent of the railway. From the utilitarian standpoint it has placed a once very remote pastoral district within reach of a market for its milk, and even the most conservative lover of nature undefiled is bound to admit that the making of the line has done wonderfully little to desecrate the scenery. The valley between Waterhouses and Beeston Tor is charmingly beautiful, but without any especially notable objects. Beeston Tor itself is a fine bluff of limestone towering high above the stream, and has at its foot a cavern which still awaits adequate exploration. It is called, after the saint of Ilam, St Bertram's Cave.

From this point down the Manifold to Ilam the distance is about 4 m., and, as there is neither railway,

road, nor footpath, the walk is apt to be something of a scramble, but the scenery fully atones for the trouble. On the side of a hill about 1½ m. down the valley stands Throwley Old Hall, sometime the home of the Meverell family, but now falling so fast into decay that a few more winters will probably see its end. The Meverells are described by Erdeswick as "a very ancient house of gentlemen, and of goodly living, equal to the best sort of gentlemen in the shire," but the male line died out in the 17th cent., and the estate has since been several times sold. The ruins are the remains of the Hall as it was rebuilt by Sampson Meverell in 1603; they contain some handsome square-headed doorways and windows. The range of old stabling, still in use as the stabling of the modern Hall, should not be overlooked.

Returning to the railway and following the Manifold Valley upwards from Beeston Tor, it will be found that the river fully justifies its name, for, as has been well said, "its course consists of a continuous series of S's, broken only here and there by a hyphen." The climax of the rock scenery of the valley is certainly the mighty cliff in the middle of whose face is the large cavern which bears the eloquent and splendid name of "Thor's Cave." The arched entrance is remarkably fine, and the two great rock-pillars which support the roof within are curiously like human handiwork. The floor of the cave was sifted for traces of prehistoric man by Carrington, the Wetton schoolmaster, in 1864-5, and yielded an abundant harvest of many periods—arrowheads, bone combs and pins, bronze bracelets and brooches, iron adzes and knives, fragments of Samian ware, and a single Roman coin. A smaller cave lower down the rock is called "Ratcliffe's Stable," after a farmer who hid his horse

MANIFOLD VALLEY: THROWLEY OLD HALL

MANIFOLD VALLEY: THOR'S CAVE

there during the alarms of December 1745. A little further up the valley is Redhurst Gorge. This contains a small cleft called "Old Hannah's Hole," from the floor of which human bones and a rude urn have been unearthed. The face of the cliff above it occassionally distinguishes itself, when the wind is blowing very strongly against it, by giving way to loud explosions, accompanied by a bluish vapour. The cause of these strange occurrences is obscure, but they are generally considered to be electrical in origin. Half a mile or so further up are some of the most striking rocks in the valley, bearing the un-English-looking name "Darfur Crags." It is hereabouts that the waters of the Manifold generally vanish during the summer; from this point upwards the scenery, happily, always has the accompaniment of running water. Above the Crags is the little station of Wetton Mill, where there is (close to the farm-house) a rock called "Nan Tor," which contains some more caverns.

Above this the valley continues to be very charming, but has no feature that needs especial notice. Above Butterton Stat. are some remains, in the shape of buildings and spoil-heaps, of the once famous, but now long deserted, Ecton copper mines. They were first systematically worked in the 17th cent. by the Earl of Devonshire, and afterwards by Sir Richard Fleetwood and some Dutch miners. In 1720 a Company was formed to take them over, and after a series of discouraging years the discerning shareholders eventually realized large profits. On the expiration of the Company's lease the Duke of Devonshire took over the mines, and is said to have made about £30,000 a year out of them; according to tradition, the well-known "Crescent" at Buxton was built out of the profits of a single year. The ore, for lack of any

better means of transport, was carried in panniers on the backs of mules to be smelted at Whiston and Cheadle. For the last fifty years or more the mines have been practically unworked, owing to the reduction in the value of the metal and the exhaustion of the more accessible "pockets" of the ore.

At Hulme End the railway and the finer portion of the valley alike terminate, the Manifold being comparatively a tame stream from this point upwards to its source near Flash.

Marchington was until 1862 a chapelry of Hanbury. The church (St Peter) is of brick, but contains a tomb with incised figures of Walter Vernon of Hound Hill (1592) and his wife Mary (Littleton). (For the Forest Banks, see Needwood Forest.)

Marchington Woodlands is a parish about 3 m. from Marchington Stat., formed in 1860.

Marston (2 m. from Stafford Common Stat.) is an ancient chapelry of Stafford, but the present church is modern.

Mayfield (½ m. from Clifton Stat.) is a much-scattered village, divided into Upper, Middle, and Church Mayfield. The name seems to have been originally Maethelfield, *i.e.* the meeting field. The church (St John the Baptist) is of considerable interest. The tower bears on its W. face a Latin inscription recording its building by Thomas Rolleston in 1515, with the family motto in old French: "Ainsy, et mieulx peult estre." Its S. face has the legend "Ste Johannes, T.R. Ora." Some marks on the W. door are said to be those of bullets fired at it as a target by stragglers of the Scotch army in 1745. The S. doorway and S. arcade are fine Norman work; the N. arcade, consisting of clustered shafts with round arches, is

Trans. The N. wall of the nave is modern, but the masonry of the S. wall is Norman, while the windows of the S. aisle and the whole of the chancel are excellent Dec. work. There is a piscina in the S. aisle, and another in the chancel. The S. porch is probably coeval with the tower. The pews in the nave, the pulpit, and the communion rails are all of very beautifully carved oak, dated 1633. A curious feature of the communion rails is that they are still arranged, in accord with the practice of the 17th cent., for communicants to kneel on the N. and S., as well as the W., sides.

Mayfield Old Hall is a picturesque stone building with mullioned windows, and has in one room a good plaster ceiling.

At Mayfield Cottage, now used as a farm-house, Thomas Moore, the poet, lived with his wife and family from 1813 to 1817, and there wrote his most ambitious but perhaps least successful work, "Lalla Rookh." "I could not possibly have a more rural or secluded corner to court the muses in," he wrote. There, too, inspired by the sound of the bells of Ashbourne Church, he wrote, in his favourite sentimental vein, the well-known verses which begin, "Those evening bells!" In Mayfield churchyard one of his children is buried beneath a stone inscribed "Olivia Byron Moore. Born August 18, 1814. Died March 16, 1815."

Mavesyn Ridware. See *Ridwares.*

Meerbrook is a small village 3 m. from Leek, formed into a parish in 1859.

Milton has a claim to mention solely on account of its containing the site of the once important Cistercian house called Hulton or Hilton Abbey, founded by Henry de Audley in 1223. Unfortunately there

remain above ground only a few fragments of the buildings, the site of which lies around the Abbey Farm-house, but the foundations were carefully excavated about 1883 by the landowner, Mr Sneyd of Keele Hall, who removed to his residence a great number of incised and carved coffin-lids and other relics. This can hardly be called an act of vandalism, for the coffin-lids were not found in their original positions, but were forming the bottom of a drain. The church proved to have been a cruciform building of noble proportions, 203 feet in length, and 107 feet across the transepts, with extensive domestic buildings, and fish-stews, as usual, to the S. of it. In the chapter-house a stone coffin was found containing human remains, doubtless those of one of the abbots. This was very rightly left undisturbed. The founder's family, as was the custom, used the Abbey Church as their burial place. Nicholas de Audley, for example, by his will (dated 1381) directed his body to be buried "in the church of our Abbey of Hulton at the end of my father's tomb, in a marble tomb like my father hath." According to tradition, the stones of the ruins were ruthlessly carted away in 1718 to build the neighbouring church of Bucknall.

Milwich is 2½ m. from Sandon Stat. The church (All Saints) was, with the exception of the tower, entirely rebuilt in brick in 1792. The tower is probably late 15th cent., and has a band of ornament and coats-of-arms below the parapet. It is chiefly notable for possessing the earliest dated bell in the county; it is inscribed "Jhoannes de Colsale me fecit anno domini MCCCCIX. Jhesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum." Where "Colsale" is is unknown.[1] There is a rude and much mutilated font, probably of the 13th cent.

Moddershall is a pretty village about 2½ m. from Stone, forming a joint parish with Oulton.

[1] Probably Coleshill, near Birmingham.—F.A.H.

Moreton is a village 3½ m. from Gnosall Stat., formed into a parish in 1845.

Mowcop ("mow" is pronounced like "cow") is a rocky hill, 1091 ft. above sea-level, on the county border, where the Staffordshire mining district adjoins the green plain of Cheshire. The hill is considerably spoiled by being crowned by a foolish "ruin," erected about 1760 by the Wilbraham family. It is entitled to some measure of fame as the birthplace of the Primitive Methodist Society (see Introduction, under Hugh Bourne), and centenary celebrations of the historic camp meeting from which the Society sprang took place on the hill in the summer of 1907. No one who visits the neighbourhood should fail to walk over the Cheshire boundary to visit Moreton Old Hall, which is perhaps the finest specimen of black-and-white architecture remaining in England.

Moxley (1 m. from Bilston) became a parish in 1845.

Mucklestone, the most westerly village in the county, is 2 m. from Norton-in-Hales Stat. The nave and chancel of the church (St Mary) were rebuilt about 1790, and again in 1883, when portions of the Dec. church were discovered in the walls and re-erected in their proper positions. The tower is Dec. work of a simple but effective type, with a parapet and pinnacles added about 1590. From its top, according to tradition, Queen Margaret watched the defeat of her forces at the battle of Blore Heath.

The site of the battle is about 2 m. away. It was fought on the 23rd September 1459, and was the second battle of the Wars of the Roses. The Lancastrian army consisted of 10,000 men, under the command of James Touchet, Lord Audley (of Heleigh

Castle) and John de Sutton, Lord Dudley; the Yorkist force of 7000 under Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, who was marching from Yorkshire to join Richard, Duke of York, who had raised his standard at Ludlow. Finding himself intercepted by Audley's forces at Market Drayton, Salisbury carefully chose his ground so as to have the advantage of the gentle slope down to the small Hemphill Brook. When the Lancastrians attacked he at first made a show of resistance, and then feigned to retreat, but when the Lancastrians advanced and were at the bottom of the valley, he suddenly turned and fell upon them. The result was a complete victory for Salisbury, Audley himself being left slain on the field and Dudley taken prisoner. The number of those killed on both sides was, according to Holinshed, no less than 2400. The Queen laid the blame of the defeat on Lord Stanley, who was at Newcastle with a considerable force of Lancashire men at the time of the fight, and made no effort to come up in time. The site of the battle is marked by a rude stone cross, called "Audley's Cross," re-erected on a massive pedestal in 1765.

At Arbour Farm (Celtic, *arrhber*, a fort), on the other side of the village, are two prehistoric stones called "The Devil's Ring and Finger," the former pierced in the centre. North of the farm is also a rectangular site, 900 ft. by 700, which the Rev. T. Barns has lately suggested is the site of the Roman station Mediomanum. This suggestion is supported by the neighbouring place-name of "Little Manchester."

Needwood Forest was enclosed by an Act of Parliament of 1801, and only fragments of this once magnificent woodland now remain. It was about 24 m. in compass, and contained nearly 8000 acres, comprising almost the whole of the triangle bounded by

the rivers Dove, Trent, and Blythe. In other words, towards the N. it stretched from near Uttoxeter, by Marchington, to Tutbury; towards the E. it touched Tatenhill and Barton; and its south-western border approached Yoxall and Abbot's Bromley. It belonged to the Crown in right of the Duchy of Lancaster, and was divided into "wards," under the rule of officers who lived within the borders of the Forest at houses called "lodges," several of which remain. The deer and other game were under the charge of a Chief Ranger and his deputy, with lieutenants and keepers under him, while an Axe-Bearer, with his deputy and woodmen, saw to the felling and planting of the timber. An annual Court of Wood-Mote was held. The bulk of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood seem to have been either given to deer-stealing themselves or to have been habitual accessories to the fact, and many stories are extant of their contests with the forest officers, and highwaymen and rascals of every kind naturally found the forest a convenient retreat and happy hunting-ground.

The "Forest Banks," near Marchington, and Bagot's Park, with the adjoining Bagot's Wood, are now the most considerable patches of the forest remaining in anything like their original state. The prettiest bit of the former is perhaps "Bertram's Dingle," so called (it is said) because one Bertram, or Bartram, lived there for some months concealed in a carefully-hidden hut. Near by is the great "Swilcar Oak," the finest of all the surviving forest trees; at 6 ft. from the ground it has a girth of no less than 22 ft.

Bagot's Park has belonged from time immemorial to the Bagots of Blithfield. It contains some noble oaks, of which the best known are "The Beggar's Oak,"

whose branches spread about 48 ft. from the bole; "The Squitch Oak," 61 ft. high and 43 ft. in girth near the ground; "The King's Oak," also of great girth, and "The Walking-Stick Oak," which has a tall and slim columnar trunk, without a branch for 70 or 80 ft. The park also contains a herd of goats, which are known to have been jealously cherished there for several centuries; the goat's head is the Bagot crest, and, according to tradition, the prosperity of this herd and of the Bagot family are closely interwoven. There are several different stories of the way in which the goats originally came to the Bagots. One says that they brought a herd from Normandy at the Conquest, another that the animals were a present from King John, and yet a third that the donor was Richard II.

Needwood Forest (or Christchurch-on-Needwood) was constituted a quasi-parish at the time of the disafforestation in 1804.

Newborough (4 m. from Sudbury Stat.) became a parish in 1862.

Newcastle-under-Lyme is close to, but not one of, the Pottery towns. It is comparatively a modern town, not being in existence at the time of the Domesday survey, for the royal castle to which it owes its name and origin was built either by William II. or Henry I. This fortress was granted by King Stephen, among other places, to Ranulph, Earl of Chester, but during the next two centuries was frequently forfeited to the Crown or regranted to favourite but often eventually troublesome noblemen. It thus belonged at different times to Simon de Montfort, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and John of Gaunt. One tower of it was still standing in Leland's time, but not a stone now remains above ground, though

part of the massive foundations were discovered a few years ago, looking as fresh as if they had just left the mason's hands. The "Lyme" of the town's name is the great forest of Lyme, which in the Middle Ages covered a great part of Cheshire and extended into N.-W. Staffordshire.

Notwithstanding its "youth," Newcastle is an ancient corporate borough, having been granted a charter by Henry II. in 1180. It returned two members to Parliament as early as 1355, but these were reduced to one in 1885.

Of the parish church (St Giles) only the very fine E.E. tower (*c.* 1200) is old, the rest having been several times rebuilt, finally by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1873-6. There is an old oak lectern, representing a pelican "in her piety," and having inscribed on the base the words "Sic Christus dilexit nos." There was a house of Blackfriars in the town, but of this not a vestige remains.

Newcastle has a curious double connection with the regicides; Thomas Harrison was born here, or at a farm close by, and John Bradshaw, the president of the court which condemned the King, was recorder of the town.

Another well-known native was Philip Astley (1742-1814), the equestrian performer and proprietor of the famous "Astley's Circus."

Newchapel, a colliery village, was formerly a chapel of Wolstanton, but became a parish in 1846. The church (St James) is modern; in the churchyard is the tomb of James Brindley, the famous canal engineer, who in his later years lived at Turnhurst in this parish, and died there in 1772.

Norbury (3 m. from Gnosall Stat.) has a church (St Peter), which, reversing the usual order

in such cases, has an ancient stone body and a brick tower. With the ancient tower in place of this Georgian monstrosity, the building would be one of the finest village churches in the county, for the nave and chancel are of excellent Dec. work of about 1340. It is amazing to think that a late churchwarden remembered the time when visitors used to come to Norbury for the sake of seeing "such a beautiful piece of brickwork" as the tower. The original woodwork of the high-pitched roof, the four sedilia, and the founder's arch above the cross-legged effigy of Ralph le Botiller, are all fine features.

There was evidently a Saxon church here, for two priests are entered under Norbury in Domesday book, one of them probably serving the township of Norbury, and the other that of Weston (now called Weston Jones). The Assize Rolls reveal an unpleasant story concerning Ralph le Botiller, lord of the manor and builder of the church. In 1302 William de Cliderhowe, parson of Norbury, was accused of poaching fish by night out of the squire's pools, but was acquitted. Three years later, however, he was murdered by William the Woodward, a servant of Ralph le Botiller, and the squire was more than suspected of having instigated the deed. Likely enough the building of the church was due to a lively picture of eternal torments painted to Ralph in his old age. In the church there is also a brass to the founder's wife, Hawys (*c.* 1350), and a very late brass to John Skrymsher (1667); there are only about a dozen later brasses in England. In the porch are three mutilated stone figures, two of them probably those of Sir Edward le Botiller (1412) and his wife Anne, and the other unknown. In Henry VIII.'s reign the manor was sold to the Skrymshers, a daughter of which house brought it

to Richard Barnfield, the father of the Elizabethan poet (see under Worthies). The ancient manor-house unfortunately was pulled down about 1820.

Norton Canes (or Norton-under-Cannock) is 3 m. from Brownhills Stat. The church (St James) was destroyed by fire in January 1888, with the exception of the tower and outer walls. Little Wyrley Grove, a house near by, is a curious 17th-cent. mansion.

Norton-in-the-Moors is 1 m. from Milton Stat. The church (St Bartholomew) was rebuilt in brick in 1738.

Oakamoor became a parish in 1864. The large copper works here are a sad blot on the beauty of the Churnet Valley.

Offley, High. See High Offley.

Ogley Hay and *Brownhills* are two colliery towns on Cannock Chase, formed into a joint parish in 1854.

Okeover is a hamlet 2½ m. from Ashbourne Stat. The Hall is mainly modern, standing in a fine deer-park. The family of Okeover, whose residence it is, enjoy the extraordinary distinction of having owned the manor for very nearly 800 years, the present head of the house being twenty-third in direct male descent from Orm de Acovere, who was enfeoffed in the manor about 1113. This surpasses by about fifty years the record of the Wrottesleys of Wrottesley — the only other Staffordshire family (save the Wolseleys) who still possess the manor from which they take their name. There is still extant an interesting letter, dated 9th December 1745, from the family chaplain to the Squire Okeover of the day relating a visit to Okeover of stragglers from Charles Edward's army: "We have had a dreadful time the last week. Upon Tuesday night we had five lay with us, and upon Friday night, as they

returned from Derby, four lay with us, and about seven o'clock at night came three horsemen and said they wanted armour, and plundered the house and stables and barns and the church. They have taken your best saddle trimmed with gold lace, and furniture belonging to it, and your lady's bridle, and two other saddles, and two other bridles, and two pair of boots, and upon Tuesday the young mare, and upon Saturday morning the grey pad (both at Christopher Tomkinson's), and they have taken all your horses at Okeover. Upon Saturday morning, after they were gone, came three ruffians, and said they wanted money, and took from me eighteenpence and my silver tobacco box, and picked the servants' pockets of their money; they killed none of us, but threatened us much." The Hall contains some fine pictures, including some by Raphael, Titian, and Rubens.

The church (All Saints) has a Dec. nave and chancel, and a late Perp. tower. The most ancient monument is a brass (part of which is unhappily lost), which is a very quaint relic. It was originally designed as a brass to William Lord Zouch (died 1447) and his two wives, but a century later, on the death of Humphrey Okeover or Oker in 1538, it was economically converted into a memorial for him, and the inscription amended. As he had but one wife, however, there was a difficulty in knowing how to dispose of the figure of the second lady, but this was ingeniously got over by engraving on the obverse the figures of Okeover's thirteen children. A window in the church also commemorates this same Humphrey, and has his figure in contemporary glass.

Oldhill is a Black Country town on the Worcestershire border, formed into a parish in 1876.

Onecote and *Bradnop* became a joint parish in

1862. Onecote Church (St Luke), formerly a chapel of Leek, was built in 1753-5. It is 2 m. from Ipstones Stat.

Oulton (1¼ m. from Stone) became a parish in 1879. There is a modern Benedictine nunnery here, with a chapel designed by A. W. Pugin.

Patshull is 3 m. from Albrighton Stat. The village contains only a few houses, and belongs entirely to the Earl of Dartmouth (Legge family). His residence, Patshull House, is a palatial but unhandsome building standing in a splendid park, which contains two beautiful serpentine lakes. The estate belonged to the Astleys until the middle of the 18th cent. During the Civil War the house was garrisoned for the King by the Astleys of the day, but was captured in February 1644 by Captain Stone. The Parliamentary account says: "It was strongly fortified, moated, and defended by a Popish garrison; but taking the opportunity when the drawbridge was let down, Captain Stone suddenly forced his passage, surprised the sentries, and fell in upon the garrison, fought with them in the house, and took Mr Astley, the governor and owner, with divers gentlemen of quality, two Jesuits, and about 60 soldiers, prisoners, and possessed the house, arms, ammunition, and good prize."

The church (St Mary) stands in the park. It was entirely rebuilt by Sir Richard Astley in the reign of Charles II., in an ugly "classical" style. It contains, however, a beautifully-executed table-tomb to Sir John de Astley and his wife (*c.* 1600), the figures of the children round the base being charmingly rendered. The knight wears an SS collar. There is also a huge monument to the builder of the church and his two wives, with upright figures of all three (1687).

Pattingham (6 m. from Wolverhampton) has a

church (St Chad) which is among the very few Staffordshire village churches to possess a spire. The spire is pretty, but quite modern, having been erected in 1871 by the present (fifth) Earl of Dartmouth in memory of his father, the fourth earl. The building is peculiar in plan by reason of the tower being wholly within the church. It has been much enlarged in recent years, but retains a remarkably large and interesting E.E. chancel, with sedilia, piscina, and aumbry. The E. window is a double lancet. There is a Norman arcade of two bays on the N. side of the nave. The font has an octagonal basin, which is perhaps Norm. also, but it has been ruthlessly recut. The churchyard cross is one of the most perfect in the county, the crucifix on its top being the only part lacking. This has been replaced by a rather graceless modern cross.

Pelsall was formerly one of the many chapelries of Wolverhampton. The church (St Michael and All Angels) was rebuilt in 1843-4.

Penkridge was a place of much importance in Saxon times. In 958 Eadgar, King of Mercia, dated a charter from "the famous place which is called Pencric." The name is certainly Celtic, and seems to mean "the end of the boundary," though what boundary is referred to is not clear. The church (now St Michael and All Angels, but originally St Mary) was one of the six Collegiate Churches of Staffordshire, and had a dean and four prebendaries. The advowson was granted by King John to the Archbishops of Dublin, who invariably held the deanery themselves, and it continued with them until the reign of Edward VI., when it reverted to the Crown. The church is a fine, large building, with E.E. arcades in both nave and chancel, but the rest is

almost entirely Perp. The tower, the N. wall of the nave, and the S. porch, with parvise above it, date from about 1400, and the S. aisle of the nave from 1518, when also the windows on the N. side were renewed. The chancel has a fine Dec. E. window, but the outer walls were mainly rebuilt in 1578. It has a fine modern marble floor. The font is dated 1668. There are some old stalls, and parts of the old screens are contained in the present ones. The chancel screen is in wrought iron, of Dutch work, dated 1778. There are a number of fine monuments: (1) a 15th-cent. alabaster slab in the S. chancel aisle, to William and Katharine Winnesbury; (2) a slab under an archway in the S. aisle of the nave, dated 1518, to Richard Littleton and his wife Alicia (Winnesbury); (3) a table-tomb under the S. arcade of the chancel, dated 1558, to Sir Edward Littleton and his two wives; (4) a table-tomb, dated 1574, to Sir Edward and Alice Littleton; (5) a large two-storied tomb, dated 1626, to two Sir Edward Littletons.

Pillaton Hall, the home of the Littletons from the 15th cent. to the 18th, is 2 m. away, and is now occupied by a caretaker. It was once a large building, enclosing three sides of a quadrangle, but both wings are now almost entirely gone. The moat remains. The most ancient remaining portion of the buildings is the little chapel, built about 1480 by the Richard and Alicia Littleton already mentioned, and dedicated to St Modwena. There is a stoup outside the door, and in the chancel is a squint and a piscina. The gateway tower, which dates from the reign of Henry VIII., is in a curious style of architecture. The stone quern, or corn-mill, which is preserved outside the chapel, is probably much older than any of the buildings.

Penkridge is the best station from which to reach the S. side of Cannock Chase.

Penn, 3 m. from Wolverhampton Stat., and now a residential suburb of that town, probably takes its name from a cattle "pen" which some early settler made in the Forest of Kinver. It still possesses a relic of the forest in the shape of a breezy common. The church (St Bartholomew) was spoilt by the encasing of the tower with brick in 1765, and the only ancient portions now visible are two E.E. bays of the nave arcade.

Pipe Ridware. See *Ridwares.*

Quarnford (5 m. from Buxton) is a parish in the northernmost extremity of the county. The church was rebuilt in 1901, on the site of the old chapel.

Rangemore (5 m. from Burton) was formed into a parish in 1884.

Ranton is 2 m. from Haughton Stat. The church (All Saints) is a little building without a tower. It is E.E. throughout, save for an unsightly casing of brick, which spoils the chancel. A priory of Black or Austin Canons, subordinate to the large abbey of Haughmond in Shropshire, was founded here about 1160 by Robert Fitznoel, and, owing to being built on a site reclaimed from woodland, was generally known as "St Mary of the Clearings," or of "the Riddings." The only part of the buildings which survives is the very fine Perp. tower of the church.[1]

The Ridwares are three villages lying between the rivers Blythe and Trent. The name was originally rhyd-wara, that is "river-folk."

Hamstall Ridware is 3 m. from Armitage Stat. Hamstall means "homestead." The church (St Michael) has a tower and spire; the lower stage of the former is Dec., while the upper stage and the spire

[1] Note the interesting sundials on this church. Also Vicarage Farm, a fine timbered house, with a "Priest's Room."—F.A.H.

are of the 17th cent. The W. wall of the nave is Norm.; the nave, arcade, and chancel are of the 14th, and the aisles of the late 15th cent. The base of the steps and upper doorway to the rood-loft remain. By the S. door are some extraordinarily crude paintings of gospel scenes on wooden panels, formerly part of one of the old pews. They seem to be pre-Reformation. In the windows of the N. aisle is some 16th-cent. glass representing nine of the twelve apostles, with a sentence of the creed in Latin above the head of each. In the chancel is the table-tomb of Richard and Joan Cotton (1502) and their eight sons and six daughters; the panels on the sides contain small figures of the children, with a short sentence relating the history of each, *e.g.* "William died in London at the age of 20 years, clerk to Mr John Clerke, the King's Auditor." The brass commemorating the parents has been removed to the wall of the S. chapel. There are good parclose screens to the chapels; that to the S. chapel is probably of the early 16th cent., and that to the N. chapel of the late 17th. The parish possesses a 14th-cent. chalice and paten of very unusual type, which were dug up in a field in 1823.

Close to the church are some interesting remains of the Elizabethan manor-house built by the Fitzherbert family, to whom the manor came, by a marriage with the heiress of the Cottons, in the time of Henry VIII. The remains are of brick, with stone dressings. They consist of a wall enclosing a large quadrangle, and having at its N. end an imposing gateway flanked by dovecotes; an ivy-covered tower, and the garden doorway of the house, with a stone balcony above it. At the modern farm-house adjoining is preserved one of the barbarous "scold's bridles" used for silencing termagants.

Mavesyn Ridware is 1½ m. from Armitage Stat. It takes its name from its early lords. The church (St Nicholas) was pulled down in 1782, with the exception of the tower and N. aisle, and an architectural atrocity of brick put up in its place. The tower (Perp.) has some good gargoyles. The N. aisle has long been used as the mortuary chapel of the successive lords of the manor, *i.e.* the Mavesyns, the Cawardens (or Cardens), and Chadwicks. It contains two ancient effigies of knights in mail, and four genuinely old alabaster slabs, but it is grievously spoilt by a number of foolish modern bas-reliefs and alabaster slabs, the latter cut in a would-be antique style, with figures of those members of the local families whose memorials had perished with them. Still less in place are the doggerel verses which accompany them. The mailed effigies probably both represent Mavesyns (or Malvoisins). In the centre of the E. wall is the table-tomb of Sir Robert Mavesyn, who was killed in the battle of Shrewsbury (1403), but it has been so much "improved" as to be of little interest. The aisle has a lancet window and a Perp. one. The church contains a much-battered Norm. font.

Close by there remains the gate-house of the old manor-house. Its lower portion, which is of stone, is probably of the 15th cent., and the upper portion, which is brick, of the 16th. The chamber over the gateway contains some ponderous timber-work, and one end of the building is a pigeon-cote. The Hall itself is a handsome Queen Anne building.

Mavesyn Ridware was in 1403 the scene of a miniature battle between the lord of the manor and the lord of the manor of Handsacre, just across the Trent. "Sir Robert Mavesyn," says Erdeswicke, "going towards the battle of Shrewsbury [to fight for the

King] met with his neighbour, Sir William Handsacre, going also towards the said battle [to fight for Percy], either of them being well accompanied with their servants and tenants, and, upon some former malice as it might seem, or else each knowing other to be backed by the contrary party, they encountered each other and fought a skirmish, where Mavesyn had the victory, and, having slain his adversary, went on to the battle and was slain himself." Tradition places the scene of the encounter beside two aged oaks, known as Gog and Magog, which stand between the village and the High Bridge over the Trent.

Pipe Ridware is 2 m. from Armitage Stat., and, like Mavesyn Ridware, owes its name to its early lords, the Pipe family, who in their turn took their name from Pipe, near Lichfield. The church (St James) was rebuilt in 1842, but it contains a splendid circular Norm. font, adorned with a pattern of interlaced bands.

Rocester is a small town containing a cotton-mill and some brick and stone works. As its name shows, there was a Roman station here; it was situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a m. N. of the town, close to the large house called Barrow Hill. The rectangular lines of the camp (which contains nearly 7 acres) are traceable, and from time to time coins and pottery have been discovered in it.

An Abbey of Austin canons was founded here by Richard Bacon in 1146, but the buildings are entirely gone, though traces of them remain in the shape of mounds in the field between the church and the high road.

The church (St Michael) was entirely rebuilt in 1873, but in the churchyard remains the most nearly perfect churchyard-cross in the county. The beautiful

clustered shaft is quite intact, and is adorned with star moulding on two sides.

Rolleston (Hrothwulf's town) is a village in the valley of the river Dove. The most interesting object about the church (St Mary) is the ancient cross now set up on the W. side of the tower. It does not properly belong to this parish, as it was discovered forming part of the flooring of the S. porch of the church at Tatenhill. It consists of the head and upper portion of the shaft only, the head being so large that it seems probable that the shaft must have been of great height. It differs in design from all the other early Staffordshire crosses, and is probably later in date. Its period is very difficult to fix, but on the whole probabilities seem in favour of the latter part of the 10th cent. The church itself (including the handsome tower and spire) is mainly of the Dec. period, but it has a modern N. aisle, and the S. aisle has been lengthened. There is a curious monument in the chancel to Thomas Caldwell (1554) and his wife Alice (1579), and in the S. aisle is a table-tomb with effigy of Sir Edward Mosley (1638). He bought the Rolleston estate from the Rolleston family about 1615, and his descendants still reside at the Hall.

Rowley Regis is a Black Country town on the Worcestershire border. The church (St Giles) was formerly a chapel of Clent. It is entirely modern, but contains a curious Norman font. The stone called "Rowley Rag," a very hard basalt, which is quarried in the parish, is much prized for paving and channeling purposes.

Rudyard is, by reason of the attractions of boating and fishing on its large Reservoir, a place much frequented by excursionists. The Reservoir, a pretty sheet of water 2 m. long and at its broadest point a

¼ of a m. wide, was made in 1793 as a source of supply for the Trent and Mersey Canal, and is very charmingly surrounded by wooded hills.

Rugeley is a market-town whose proper name is Ridge-ley. The building now used as the parish church is a poor affair built in a very nondescript style in 1822, but on the opposite side of the road still stand the chancel, N. chapel, and tower of the old church (St Augustine), with the arcade between the nave and N. aisle. The chancel and chapel have been fitted with a modern W. wall, and are still used for service, and perhaps the church has not suffered more than it would have done if the builders of 1822 had decided to "restore" instead of to abandon it. The chancel is E.E. (*c.* 1240), but has been much altered. It retains only a single original window; another window is Dec. The priest's doorway is Perp., and the eastern wall is modern. It has a piscina and a single sedile, and there is a squint of very extraordinary shape, cut when the chapel was added, in the direction of the altar in the chapel. The latter is Early Dec., with original E. window and a rare survival in the shape of fragments of a sculptured reredos. It has also a double piscina and sedilia, an almost obliterated alabaster slab (1485), and a good brass with a figure of a civilian, John Weston (1566), and coats of arms. The graceful nave arcade was originally coeval with the chapel; but four of its original six pointed arches have been replaced by two round ones. The tower is also Dec., but later than the arcade. In the churchyard are the remnants of the cross, and a curious 17th-cent. table-tomb with repulsive effigies in half-relief of two corpses tied in shrouds.

It is to be feared that William Palmer will long

remain the most widely known native of Rugeley. He was a medical man of dissolute life, who, having successively poisoned his wife and his brother without arousing suspicion, finally poisoned a man named Cook, and became in 1856 the central figure of one of the most famous criminal trials of the 19th cent. Local prejudice against him was so great that a special Act of Parliament was passed authorizing the transference of the case to the central criminal court, and there, after a twelve days' trial, he was found guilty. One result of the trial was that Rugeley, finding itself most unpleasantly notorious, presented a petition to the Premier, Lord Palmerston, praying that its name should be changed, whereupon he slyly suggested that the town should be called after himself. The grave of Cook, whose winnings on the turf Palmer coveted, is to be found just inside the gate of the new churchyard at Rugeley, with a euphemistic epitaph recording that "his life was taken away."

Rushall church is modern, but adjoining it are the interesting ruins of Rushall Hall, a mansion very strongly built in grey stone by the Harper family in the 14th cent. It afterwards came by marriage to the Leighs, and at the outbreak of the Civil War was garrisoned for the Parliament by Colonel Edward Leigh, but during his absence in March 1643 was assaulted and captured by Prince Rupert, despite a gallant attempt at defence by Mrs Leigh and her men and maid-servants. Colonel Lane of Bentley Hall was put in charge of it, and for more than a year used it most successfully as a base for harassing or robbing the trains of Parliamentarian "carriers" (*i.e.* pack-horses conveying money and supplies). However, it was at length recaptured in May 1644 by the Earl of Denbigh, who took in it "Colonel Lane and divers

officers, with 200 prisoners and their arms, and £10,000 worth of goods, and so opened the passage between Coventry and London." One Captain Tuthill became its new commander, and to his credit refused a bribe of £2000 which Colonel Leveson, the governor of Dudley Castle, offered him for its surrender. It seems to have been dismantled in 1646. Some cannon balls are preserved at the ruins, which stand in private grounds.

Rushton Spencer has a church (St Lawrence), standing on a hill quite apart from the village. It is of a different type from any other in the county, for when built about 1350 it was constructed almost entirely of timber. It was until 1865 a chapel in the parish of Leek, and until the making of the railway doubtless well deserved its common title of "the chapel in the wilderness." The remaining portions of the original church are the interior of the nave and chancel and the S. porch, which are of wood throughout, and the E. wall of the chancel, which is of stone. The timbers have suffered considerable alteration, but the W. truss of the nave roof gives a good idea of their appearance. The ornaments on the wall-plate at the E. end of the N. side of the nave have been called E.E. dog-teeth, but are really the pateras common in 14th and 15th cent. work. The N. aisle and Swythamley chapel on the N. of the chancel were added in stone in 1650. The W. gallery is an addition of 1719 which might well be done away with. The vestry and belfry bear the date 1748, and the S. nave wall was rebuilt in 1848. The font is probably of the same date as the original church. The pulpit is a good 17th cent. example.

Salt is a small village which became a separate parish in 1844. It takes its name from ancient salt-pits, now disused.

Sandon church (All Saints) still needs careful restoration. It stands in the large park of Sandon Hall, the residence of the Earls of Harrowby. Like so many other churches in the county, it is a building of many styles. The tower is of the late 15th cent. What is now the S. aisle seems to have been the original church, built about 1270, but some later windows have been inserted in it, notably a good Dec. window in its E. wall. The present nave and N. chapel are Dec. work, the windows in the latter having good flowing tracery. The base of the rood-loft staircase is visible in this chapel, and there are piscinas in both this and the original church. The church was badly used in a "restoration" of 1840, when the present chancel was rebuilt and the W. end of the nave shorn off. There are two fonts—one circular and extremely plain, but probably Norman, and the other a square one, dated 1669, with the corners supported by very heathenish figures. The pulpit and sounding board are very splendid carved work of Jacobean date. Some of the pews are also, but less richly, carved; they bear in one place the date 1699. In the chancel are four table-tombs to members of the Erdeswicke family, all with incised figures on the top. They commemorate Hugh and Cecily Erdeswicke (1473), Hugh and Elizabeth Erdeswicke (1500), Sampson and Elizabeth Erdeswicke (1544), and Hugh and Mary Erdeswicke (1596). Besides these there is the large and inartistic monument of Sampson Erdeswicke, the first historian of Staffordshire, erected by himself in 1601, two years before his death. It has a recumbent effigy of Sampson, and kneeling figures of his two wives, Elizabeth and Mary, in recesses above. The long Latin inscriptions show its builder's taste for genealogies.

The registers here, like those at Weston-on-Trent, record the burials of soldiers killed in the fight at Hopton Heath in 1643.

Sandon Hall, the residence of the Earl of Harrowby (head of the house of Ryder), is a large house built in 1852. On a lofty position in the fine park stands a great column, 75 feet high, erected by the first Earl in memory of the great Prime Minister, the younger Pitt, on his death in 1806. There is also a shrine put up in the fashion of the day to Spencer Perceval, the unfortunate Prime Minister, who was assassinated by a lunatic in 1812.

Sedgley is a large parish on the western side of the Black Country, standing mostly on high ground. The church (All Saints) was rebuilt in 1829. The urban district includes the villages of Upper and Lower Gornal and Woodsetton.

Seighford is a pretty village 1½ m. from Great Bridgeford Stat. The first syllable of the name seems to represent the Anglo-Saxon word "seohtre" —a brook. The church (St Chad) is proved by its dedication to have had a Saxon predecessor. The tower and S. wall of the nave of the present building were, unhappily, rebuilt in brick in 1748, but the N. arcade is early Norman (*c.* 1100), the easternmost bay being a rather clumsy addition of a few years later than the rest; possibly the original Norman church was cruciform. The chancel arch is a fine Norman one, but the chancel itself and the N. wall of the nave are mainly of the 15th cent. One window in the chancel retains some small figures in contemporary glass of St Christopher and the Virgin and Child. There is a piscina. The pulpit is of handsome Jacobean work, and there is a table-tomb with effigies of William and Mercy Boyar or Bowyer

(1593). The N. aisle is called the Bowyer aisle, after this family.

Seighford Hall is a very handsome "black-and-white" mansion, which has been very judiciously restored and added to.

Shallowford is a hamlet on the Meece, close to Norton Bridge Stat. It claims mention by reason of its possession of Izaak Walton's farm, called "Halfhead," which the kindly Walton by his will left to the Corporation of Stafford, directing that the rent should be expended each year in apprenticing two poor boys, and providing a marriage-portion for a maid-servant, and in buying coal for the poor. The farm-house has been rebuilt, but it still has some brick-and-timber outbuildings, and the two picturesque black-and-white cottages which belong to it must be almost precisely as Walton knew them.

Some have seen in Walton's "Angler's Song" an allusion to Shallowford:—

> "Thus free from lawsuits and the noise
> Of princes' courts, I would rejoice;
> Or with my Bryan and a book,
> Loiter long days near Shawford brook;
> There sit by him and eat my meat,
> There see the sun both rise and set;
> There bid good morning to next day,
> There meditate my time away;
> And angle on, and beg to have
> A quiet passage to a welcome grave."

It is only right to say, however, that there is a Shawford in Walton's other county of Hampshire, to which the line would as well apply.

Shareshill (3 m. from Four Ashes Stat.) has a church (St Luke, though now called St Mary), of which only the Perp. tower, with a pretty band of

ornament, is ancient. The rest was barbarously destroyed about 1740, and replaced by a hideous "classical" monstrosity of red brick, with blue glass windows. A chapel of the Swynnertons and the tombs which it contained disappeared with the rest, the only surviving remains of this being two effigies off a table-tomb which now lie absurdly in two of the windows. They are said to be those of Sir Humphrey Swynnerton and his wife Cassandra (Giffard). The Rev. W. H. Havergal (father of Frances Ridley Havergal) was vicar of this parish from 1860 to 1870. A mile away, in a large park, stands Hilton Hall, the seat of the Vernon family since the 17th cent. A mediæval metal figure, "curious" in the booksellers' meaning of the word, and known as "Jack of Hilton," which was formerly in use in a peculiar feudal service owed by the lord of the neighbouring manor of Essington, is preserved at the Hall.

Above the Hall stands a lofty tower, built to commemorate Admiral Vernon's capture of Portobello from the Spaniards in 1739, and not far away is a picturesque old windmill, bearing the date 1681 and the initials H. V. (Henry Vernon).

Sheen is a small village between the Dove and the Manifold, 2 m. from Hulme End Stat. The church (St Luke) was rebuilt under Mr Butterfield in 1852, except the N. wall of the nave. In the churchyard, beneath the E. window, is a much defaced effigy of a priest (probably 15th cent.). The village cross remains, and is also probably of the 15th cent.

Shenstone is a pleasant village, standing on the slope of a little hill which is curiously crowned by *two* church towers. The explanation is that when the old church (St John the Baptist) was mainly destroyed and the new one built in 1853, the tower of the old

one was spared. It is an interesting example of Trans. work. The S. doorway also remains attached to it, and though much damaged, enough survives to prove that it was a fine E.E. piece, adorned with cusps.

Silverdale is engaged chiefly in the iron and coal industries. It became a separate parish in 1855.

Smallthorne is a town of modern growth on the northern edge of the Pottery district. It was constituted a parish in 1859, and has a population of some 6000.

Stafford, the county town, stands for the most part enfolded in a loop of the river Sow, a stream which is happily by no means as unlovely as its name. The town's name in its earliest form was simply *Staeth*, that is, a jetty. Stafford had no existence previous to Saxon times, the first settler on its site being, according to tradition, a certain St Bertelin, an 8th cent. saint of whom nothing is certainly known. It is greatly to be regretted that a small Saxon church dedicated to his honour, which adjoined the W. end of St Mary's Church, was in the year 1800 wantonly destroyed. The real history of the town begins in the year 913, when a "burh" was built at Stafford by Ethelfleda (worthy daughter of King Alfred, and widow of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia), in furtherance of her policy of securing her country against the Danes of the Five Boroughs. Its growing importance is shown by its possession of a Mint, which issued coins at intervals from the time of Athelstan (925-941) until that of Stephen.

Stafford seems to have resisted the Conqueror stubbornly, and to have suffered accordingly. On his march S. from the desolation of Yorkshire early in 1070, he sought to overawe its inhabitants by the erection of a new castle, but this was perhaps only of

wood, for it had been destroyed before the date of Domesday—whether by insurgents or by accidental fire cannot now be known. The town contained, in 1086, 179 houses, but no less than 51 of these were unoccupied — a fact which speaks eloquently of rigorous oppression. William appointed to the governorship of the town his kinsman, Robert de Toeni, who assumed the title of de Stafford. Yet a third castle or keep was built by William Rufus, but this, too, has in its turn completely disappeared. Alone of all the towns of the county, Stafford was protected by walls, but the date of their building is uncertain, and almost every trace of them has now vanished, though their memory is preserved in the street-names, Back Walls, N. and S. Of the gates, a fragment of the Eastgate, containing a portion of the groove of the portcullis, alone survives, though the arch above it was standing as late as 1800.

The town received from King John in 1206 a charter confirming its ancient privileges; from Edward VI. another, granting additional rights; and from James I., in 1613, another, conferring the right to elect a mayor and aldermen. Queen Elizabeth passed through, after a visit to Chartley, on 8th August 1575, and in gracious acknowledgment of a gift of a silver cup, procured the passage of Acts protecting the staple local industry of cap-making, and restoring the county assizes to the town. At the opening of the Civil War Stafford was for the King, and His Majesty and Prince Rupert stayed at the beautiful "High House" in the main street as guests of Captain Richard Sneyd, one of the borough members, from the 17th to the 19th September 1642, on their march W. with the earliest Royalist army to recruit at Shrewsbury; but

on the 14th May in the next year the town was captured by a small Parliamentarian force under Sir William Brereton. The castle was held against him for a few days by Lady Stafford, but she evacuated it without any real resistance. Sir William, however, with an eye to future trouble, took the wise precaution of destroying both the castle and the town walls before he left, with the result that the town was never again held for the King. Stafford has had a long Parliamentary history, having returned two members from 1295 till 1885, but the Redistribution Act of that year left her with only one, and the next will probably deprive her of separate representation, for her present population of 20,000 odd is much below that of many towns who have no member of their own. She will, however, always retain the distinction of having been represented by a man of genius, in the person of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, member for the borough during the whole period from 1780 to 1806, though she owes that distinction less to her admiration of Sheridan's eloquence than to the attraction of the five guineas which was his regular price for a vote. In 1812, after his losses of fortune, he stood again for Stafford, but the burgesses, appreciating splendid talents and a noble use of them less than hard cash, to their lasting shame placed him at the bottom of the poll. He is best remembered in Stafford to-day by his toast of the town's boot-making industry: "May the trade of Stafford be trod under foot by all the world," though his thick-headed constituents could not see his meaning at the time, and succeeded in persuading themselves that they were being insulted.

The two ancient parishes of Stafford both possess churches of interest. Both undoubtedly had Saxon predecessors. Domesday Book mentions the thirteen

"Prebendary Canons" of the Collegiate establishment of St Mary's, and the dedication of St Chad's sufficiently vouches for the antiquity of its foundation. The history of St Mary's includes one remarkable incident. In the year 1258, Roger de Molend, Bishop of Lichfield, disregarding its character of a Royal Free Chapel, attempted to make his way into it by force of arms. Both sides refused to plead at the assizes, but by some means the bishop eventually obtained the right of entry, though without gaining any disciplinary powers over the clergy. The church is cruciform in plan, with a chapel on either side of the chancel. The low, square, central tower is somewhat unfortunately surmounted by an upper octagonal storey in the late Dec. style, which in its turn was once topped by a lofty spire, but this fell during a storm on 21st March 1594. The fabric underwent two restorations during the 19th cent., one at the hands of Sir Gilbert Scott in 1844-5, and another in 1877-9. The tower arches, the nave and its aisles are of the earliest E.E. type; the N. transept is Dec. and has a fine doorway; most of the rest of the church is of various dates during the 13th and 14th cents., while clerestories and windows were added about 1500. There is a much-mutilated alabaster tomb (1562) in the N. transept, with effigies of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall, and his second wife Joan (Bollys). The lace of the lady's pillow is particularly well executed. In the N. aisle a bust of Stafford's most famous son was placed in 1878, with an inscription of admirable brevity commemorating the facts that Izaak Walton, "Piscator," was born in the parish and baptized in the church. The Norman font, in which the infant Izaak's baptismal ceremony was performed, is the most interesting object in the church. Its basin is of a curious quatrefoil form, and the ex-

terior teems with the grotesque monsters so dear to the Norman artist. It has two inscriptions, one on a band half-way up: DISCRETUS NON ES SI NON FUGIS; ECCE LEONES; and the other on the rim of the basin:

TU DE JERUSALEM
ROI . . . ALEM
ME FACIENS TALEM
TAM PULCHRUM TAM SPECIALEM.

The incident to which the first refers was presumably one, now only dimly to be guessed at, in the life of the Crusader-donor of the font; the hiatus in the second, though it has never been satisfactorily filled, perhaps contained a prayer that he might return well-laden with the spoils of the East. There is a beautiful E.E. double piscina in the S. chapel.

S. Chad's is, with the exception of Tutbury, the best remaining Norman church in Staffordshire. Its builder's name is given in an inscription on the south-western pier of the tower: ORM VOCATUR QUI ME CONDIDIT; Orm was one of the commonest Norman names, and it is quite impossible to state who this Orm was. Both the chancel and the nave arcade (with clerestory) are those of his church. The sumptuous chancel arch has five orders of moulding, covered with an amazing profusion of beak-heads. The rest of the church has suffered grievously; the tower was rebuilt and the N. transept destroyed in early Tudor times, and in 1622 the aisles were swept away and the whole interior plastered and whitewashed. Successive 19th cent. restorations were consequently necessary, both the E. and W. ends being renewed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and the tower practically rebuilt in an incongruous style in 1884. The Norman font remains, and is a fine example with a design of monstrous heads. The

STAFFORD: ST. CHADS' CHURCH

STAFFORD: THE HIGH HOUSE, GREENGATE STREET

greater part of the churchyard was filched for building purposes during the 17th or 18th cents., and the whole would probably have vanished had it not been for the pious care of Izaak Walton, who gave a sum of £22 to build a wall round it.

Outside the Greengate stood a monastery of Augustinian Friars, with a fine church in which Edward, fifth Earl of Stafford, slain at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, was buried; and outside the Gaolgate a house of the Franciscan (Grey) Friars; but hardly a stone of either remains above ground, and the same may be said of the Hospital of St John and the Lazar-House of St Leonard, which were both on the Lichfield Road. In Greengate Street there are several interesting buildings, the most striking of which is the half-timbered "High House" already mentioned, erected in 1555 by Richard Dorington. It stands four storeys high, and is a notably good example of a Tudor town house. Prince Rupert characteristically amused himself during his stay here (if a story of gossiping Dr Plot's is to be believed) by standing in the garden and firing pistol bullets through the weather-cock on St Mary's tower. The house adjoining the "High House," which is of equal height, is probably as good in design, but its front is unfortunately plastered over. Next to this is the Swan Hotel, a once notable coaching house, where Dickens stayed a night ("the extinct town inn, the 'Dodo,'" he was unkind enough to call it). But it has a better claim to mention through the fact that in its palmiest days George Borrow—according, at least, to his own account in "The Romany Rye"—here spent several happy weeks of the year 1825 in the position of ostler. A little further down the street is "Chetwynd House," a handsome brick house with a recessed front, built in 1745. The Duke of Cumber-

land, hasting after the Young Pretender, stayed there in December of that year, as did Sheridan on several later occasions.[1] The modern Roman Catholic church (St Austin's) has a W. window filled with late 15th cent. glass from Belgium, which is well worth inspection. In Mill Street stands a block of twelve alms-houses, with a chapel, called "The College," built in stone after a poor Renaissance style, by Sir Martin Noel, about 1640. In the Assize Court of the Shire Hall, Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, judge, poet, critic, and friend and biographer of Charles Lamb, died of apoplexy, while actually upon the judgment seat, on 13th March 1854. The event is commemorated by a marble bust in the Court.

With the generality of modern institutions this book is not concerned, but the William Salt Library cannot be left unmentioned. It had its origin in the collections of the late Mr William Salt, was opened in 1874, and contains a priceless collection of some 20,000 deeds, volumes, and drawings relating to Staffordshire history, constituting a possession which other counties may well envy. The William Salt Archæological Society, which is connected with it, has published a most valuable volume of Staffordshire records annually since 1880.

The present Stafford Castle, standing on the summit of a wooded hill about 1 m. to the W. of the town, looks picturesque from a distance, but is merely a pseudo-antique erection built between 1810 and 1815 by Sir George Jerningham (afterwards created Baron Stafford of Stafford Castle), on the foundations of the castle built in 1349 by Ralph, first Earl of Stafford, and destroyed by Sir William Brereton. Sir George thought better of his plan, however, and left the castle only half completed. It is nevertheless worth a visit

[1] This fine house is now carefully preserved as the new Post Office. (S.M. 1918.)

for the sake of the magnificent view to be obtained from the tops of its towers. The Castle Church (St Mary), prettily situated below the castle, was entirely rebuilt under Sir Gilbert Scott in 1844, with the exception of the tower (*c.* 1425), which has stone shields bearing the Stafford and Neville arms. A stone coffin-lid of an unusual type has been built into the western wall.

In the churchyard lies Thomas Mulock, the father of the novelist, Mrs Craik, and a somewhat remarkable man. He began life as a barrister, acted as secretary to Canning, and in his later years was a Christian minister with a creed largely his own. He lived in Stafford for some time, was once confined in the gaol there for contempt of court, and died in 1869.

The chief industry of Stafford is still boot and shoe making, but it has, besides, engineering works and salt works, and is an important railway centre. It benefits also from the numerous perquisites which fall to the chief town of a populous county.

Standon church (All Saints) was much restored and in part rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1846-7. The "engaged" tower is of 15th-cent. date, but in the lowest stage Norman materials seem to have been re-used to a considerable extent, and the Norman W. wall was partially left standing. The arcades are E.E., and that to the N. contains an interesting early Norman doorway, the Norman church having evidently been without aisles. There are table-tombs with incised effigies, one to Francis Ross, his wife Elizabeth (Skrimshire), and his ten children (1500), and another to Roger Broughton and his wife Maria (1617). There is also a brass in the shape of a foriated cross, but the inscription now consists of the single word Radus (*i.e.* Radulphus), (*c.* 1420).

Stapenhill is 1 m. from Burton. It was for civil

purposes transferred from Derbyshire to Staffordshire in 1894. The church (St Peter) was rebuilt in 1880-1; in the porch is an alabaster slab with incised effigies of William and Margaret Dethick (1497). A Saxon burial ground was discovered here in 1881, in which as many as thirty-one skeletons were found, and also five cinerary urns. The presence of the latter proves that the persons buried there were pagans.

Statfold is a minute parish on the Warwickshire border, 3 m. from Tamworth. The little church (All Saints) stands in the grounds of the Hall, the residence of the Stafford-Pipe-Wolferstan family. Until 1906, when it was refitted for use as a parish church, it had long been used merely as a mortuary chapel for that family. Though extremely simple, it is an interesting building. The W. door is Norman; two small square-headed splayed windows in the nave are E.E., and the S. door and two simple windows in the chancel are Dec. There is a piscina and a sedile. Under arches on either side of the chancel lie two female effigies (one of a nun and one of a secular lady), probably of the 14th cent. Whom they represent is not known.

Stoke-on-Trent is, except Burslem, the only town in the Potteries which had any real existence before the 19th cent. Its name no doubt means a place enclosed by fences (stockades). The church (St Peter ad Vincula) was entirely rebuilt on a new site in 1826-9. Portions of the nave arcade of the old church, reinforced with bricks, have, however, been re-erected in the churchyard, and there is a battered Saxon cross on the S. of the chancel of the present church. It is remarkable for having the Greek key pattern on one face. The chancel contains several mural memorials of good design, of which the most

generally interesting is that of Josiah Wedgwood, the great potter (1795), with a medallion bust by Chantrey and a well-worded inscription. The two Josiah Spodes, father and son, both eminent potters (1827 and 1839) also have a monument.

The headquarters of the N. Staffordshire Railway Company are at Stoke, and its station is the railway centre for the whole of the Potteries district.

Stone is an old-fashioned market town which presumably takes its name from some long-vanished Holmen. It possessed a Priory of Augustinian canons, founded by Robert de Stafford about 1100. The Priory church continued in use by the parish until 1750, when it was razed to the ground, and the present unhandsome building (St Michael) erected. The only monuments which have survived are two much-worn recumbent effigies, probably of the 14th cent., of a priest and a lady, in the porch of the present church; a small but good brass (undated, but apparently Elizabethan), with figures of Thomas Crompton and his wife, with four sons and two daughters, now in the N. aisle; and a battered table-tomb with effigies of Thomas Crompton and his wife (1673), which is exposed to wind and weather in the churchyard. The tomb of the poet, Richard Barnfield, has totally disappeared. The remains of the Earl of St Vincent lie in a mausoleum in the churchyard, and there is a monument to his memory inside the church, surmounted by his bust by Chantrey. The church also contains a fine painting, by Sir William Beechey, of St Michael's victory over Satan (after Raphael), which was given by the Earl. The only other remains of the Priory are a groined crypt beneath the house called "The Priory House," and a few scattered stones in its garden.

Most local writers account for the name of Stone by relating that two sons of Wulfhere, king of Mercia, named Wulfad and Rufin, after being murdered by their unnatural father for their conversion to Christianity, were buried here by their mother beneath a great heap of stones; but the whole story is an absurd libel invented by Norman monks; Wulfhere, as a fact, became a Christian early in life, and was throughout his reign a zealous friend of the Church, and the very existence of Wulfad and Rufin is entirely apocryphal. The story that the Priory was founded by Wulfhere is also unhistorical. It is just possible that the persistent connection of his name with the town arose from his having occupied a camp about 2 m. from the town, which is called "Bury Bank," or "Wulfherecester." The camp, which is about 3½ acres in extent and strongly entrenched, is remarkable for containing a large mound in which indications of burials have been discovered.

Stonnall (*Upper and Lower*) are about 3 m. from Brownhills Stat. They became a parish in 1845.

Stowe-by-Chartley is so called to distinguish it from the Stowe just outside Lichfield. The name means simply an enclosure. The church (St John the Baptist) is mainly late Norman, and has a fine S. doorway and chancel arch of that period. A plain N. doorway and a priest's doorway (both built up), and a single window in the chancel are Norman also. The other windows and the tower are late Dec. In the chancel is a table-tomb with effigies of Sir Walter Devereux, first Viscount Hereford, with his two wives, erected before his death in 1558. His helmet still hangs above the tomb. There is also a partly obliterated alabaster slab to some earlier Devereux, and a brass (1587) with a Latin verse commemorating Thomas Newport, steward of the second Earl of Essex.

Stowe-by-Lichfield (see *Lichfield*).

Stramshall (1½ m. from Uttoxeter) became a parish in 1854.

Stretton (2 m. from Gailey Stat.) takes its name from the Watling Street, which runs past it. It probably stands on the site of the Pennocrucium of the Itinerary of Antoninus—so called, no doubt, from the nearest Celtic village, Penkridge. Practically no Roman remains, however, have come to light. Of the church (St John), originally a chapel of Penkridge, only the chancel is ancient, the nave having been rebuilt in 1860. The chancel has three characteristic round-headed, splayed Norman windows. There is a Dec. piscina, and the E. window has some fragments of ancient glass.

Stretton (2 m. from Burton) takes its name from the Ickneild Street. It became a parish in 1873, and has a dignified modern church (St Mary), built in 1897 from designs by Messrs J. T. Micklethwaite and Somers Clarke.

Swindon is 5 m. from Stourbridge Stat., and became a parish in 1867. At Green's Forge, near by, there is an ancient four-sided camp, of unknown origin, enclosing an area of nearly 7 acres. It is now crossed by a main road.

Swynnerton is a village standing on high ground and in pretty, wooded country, about 1½ m. from Standon Bridge Stat. The church (St Mary) is of considerable interest. The tower is, in its lower stage, Norman, and in its upper stage of 15th-cent. date. The tower doorway has, unfortunately, been over-restored, but the tower arch shows the Norman craftsman at his best. Beak-heads are its most prominent adornment. The later portion of the tower has two somewhat unusual features—the triangular-

headed belfry windows and the small trefoil-headed arches of the band of ornament. The nave is modern, except for the E.E. arcades, and the eastern portion of the S. aisle, which dates from the 15th cent. The chancel screen is beautiful work of the Tudor period, but the chancel itself has been mostly rebuilt. The S. wall, however, which was an external wall before the erection of the S. chapel, and the sedilia, piscina and aumbry, are all of severely simple early Dec. type. The low side window in this wall should be noticed. Under a later Dec. canopy in the S. wall is an effigy, which probably represents Sir John de Swynnerton, who died about 1254. The grave beneath was accidentally opened during a restoration in 1856, and found to contain the skeleton of a youngish man six feet two inches in height, still wearing a reddish-brown beard. All the teeth were sound, except that two in the front were missing, having perhaps been driven in by a lance thrust. The S. chapel is also late Dec., and has mutilated sedilia and piscina, and good E. window and S. doorway. It contains a colossal human figure in stone, probably intended for Our Lord, which was found some years ago under the chapel floor, having probably been buried there to avoid destruction at the hands of the Puritans. It is carved strangely out of proportion, and it is difficult to imagine where, in such a mere village church, it would not dwarf its surroundings into nothingness. There is a tradition, however, that it came from Lichfield Cathedral.

Swythamley is 7 m. from Rushton Stat. The Hall, which stands in a fine park, was formerly the residence of the Trafford family, but is now the seat of the Brocklehursts. It is set in magnificent moorland scenery, commanding wide views of hill country, with

LUDCHURCH, NEAR SWYTHAMLEY

the Roches and Gun in the foreground, and Mow Cop, Cloud End, the Cheshire plain and Shutling's Low in the distance.

The remarkable natural feature known as Ludchurch can best be approached by a walk of 2 m. across the moor from Clough Head, and permission to see it must be obtained from Swythamley Hall.

It is a rift which opens in the moorland so unexpectedly that one might easily pass it by unnoticed. Within the narrow jaws of the lower entrance the rock towers sheer on either side, and a flight of steps cut in the stone seems to disappear in equal depth below. At the foot of the stairway the chasm winds again between great walls of rock only some 20 ft. apart at the top, their dark expanse flecked by tufts of beautiful fern, and patches of soft green moss, and overhung by the branches of the trees on the moor above. A modern wooden figure of a girl set in a rock "chimney" commemorates a story of the Lollard persecution under Henry IV. The figure is intended to represent Alice, the grand-daughter of Walter de Lud-Auk, the Lollard leader. According to the story the name Ludchurch is a shortened form of "Lollard-church," and is so called through having been used as a secret place of worship by the Lollards, whose singing betrayed them to the soldiers searching the moor, and in the fray which followed Alice was struck down. Her body, it is said, lies buried in the ravine. The admitted existence of the name Lud-Auk at the time is of course quite inconsistent with the suggested origin of "Ludchurch."

Talke-o'-th'-Hill is a colliery village on the Cheshire border, 1 m. from Harecastle Stat. The church (St Martin), formerly a chapel of Audley, is wholly modern, but possesses a pre-Reformation

paten. In the centre of the village a portion of the market-cross stood until recent years, but has now disappeared.

The village has experienced a strange series of calamities. In July 1782 a fire destroyed many of the houses, and in the following month 39 cwt. of gunpowder exploded with disastrous effects while being conveyed through the village in a waggon. A brief was obtained commanding collections to be made throughout the kingdom in aid of the sufferers. Even worse than these events, however, were the terrible colliery explosions of 1866 and 1875, in the first of which ninety-one men and boys, and in the second forty-two, were killed.

Tamworth, a bustling little town and the smallest borough in the county, stands at the junction of the Tame and Anker rivers. It was half in Warwickshire until 1890, but for local government purposes now belongs wholly to Staffordshire. Its name means, of course, "the farm on the Tame." It has a more distinguished early history than any other place in the county, having been throughout the later Saxon period probably the most important town in Middle England. Its beginnings were due to the masterful Offa, King of Mercia and over-lord of England, 757-796, who built here a residence for himself, which is said to have been the wonder of its age. He also enclosed the whole town with a trench, which is still visible in places, and is known as "Offa's Dyke," or "the King's Ditch." In 874 Tamworth was taken and destroyed by the Danes, but was refortified in 913 by Ethelfleda (see under Stafford). Here in 918 Ethelfleda died; here in 925 King Athelstan gave his sister Editha in marriage to Sigtrygg, the Danish king of York; and here Editha, in her widowhood, established and ruled over a nunnery, in which in 960 she

died. From a mint at Tamworth coins were issued from the time of Offa to the time of Henry I. At the Conquest the castle and manor fell to Robert le Dispenser, the founder, apparently, of the famous Marmion family, who held Tamworth and Scrivelsby by right of acting as king's champions at each coronation. In 1291, however, the male line ended,[1] and Tamworth passed by marriage to the de Frevilles, and has since come through successive heiresses to the families of Ferrers of Groby (1423), Shirley of Chartley (1688), Compton of Northampton (1715), and Townshend of Rainham (1751). The castle was purchased by the town in 1897; its history since the Conquest is disappointingly tame, and almost all that can be said is that in it, in the year of Magna Carta, Sir Robert Marmion forcibly and successfully resisted a force sent to carry out a royal order for its destruction, and that in 1643 it surrendered to the Parliament after a siege of only two days.

Tamworth has two literary associations—the one with traditional balladry through the merry verses which relate the story of "King Edward the Fourth and a Tanner of Tamworth," and the other with Shakespeare's "Richard III." Henry VII. encamped near the town four days before the battle of Bosworth Field, and Shakespeare in the short second scene of the fifth act of the play shows him heartening his captains there for the conflict. The traditional site of his camp is near the village of Hopwas, on the road from Lichfield, and since Henry certainly marched from Milford Haven by way of Shrewsbury, Stafford, and Lichfield, the probabilities are in its favour.

Tamworth Castle, which stands on a high mound

[1] Scott's hero is a purely fictitious character.

above the junction of the two rivers, is a place of very considerable antiquarian interest. The two lodges, however, are pseudo-antiques built in the early 19th cent. The castle belongs to four distinct periods. *First, the fortress built by Ethelfleda in* 913. To this perhaps belongs the curious herring-bone masonry of the causeway which leads across the fosse, and probably the fosse and much of the castle mound itself. *Secondly, the Norman castle of the Marmions.* The survivals of this are those portions of the tower and curtain-wall which are of rubble-work. The chief remaining features built of this are the entrance gateway by the side of the tower, the dungeon beneath it, and some "archers' passages" within the curtain-wall. The stone at the foot of the tower, called the "Marmion Stone," is really the base of a cross which stood on the old bridge over the Tame. *Thirdly, Medieval reparations to the tower and curtain-wall effected by the de Frevilles.* These may be distinguished by the rough ashlar-work (squared stone) of which they consist. *Fourthly, Tudor and Jacobean Manor-house of the Ferrers family.* This is the brick and stone building enclosed within the curtain-wall, built partly in the reign of Henry VIII. and partly in that of James I. Several windows were pierced for it in the tower and curtain-wall. The principal rooms of the manor-house are now used as a museum, which has some interesting local relics, but its modern foreign curios seem somewhat out of place. Most of the rooms have oak wainscoting, the panels in the great drawing-room bearing an inscription which proudly records that Sir John Ferrers, like his sovereign, James I., was descended from David, King of Scotland. The horse-shoe badge of the Ferrers family may be noticed in several places. Several rooms have also magnificent

TAMWORTH CASTLE

carved oak chimney-pieces of a Jacobean type. There is a beautiful view to be had from the top of the tower over the surrounding plain.

The church is dedicated to St Editha, the lady who has been already mentioned. There can be few churches which stand, as this probably does, on the site of the building in which its patron saint was married. As early as 963 King Edgar made it a collegiate foundation with a dean and six prebendaries. As much of the church was destroyed by fire in 1345, it had to be mainly rebuilt, the present building being therefore mostly Late Dec. It is a large and handsome structure. The square tower (partly Dec. and partly Perp.) has a curious appearance through bearing the unfinished base of a spire, and four large pinnacles, evidently made to suit a spire. It contains a very ingenious *double* spiral staircase—a feature quite unique in an English church. The outer walls of the church were unfortunately constructed of a very friable stone, and have had to be much renewed. The fine Dec. arcades of the nave, however, are untouched. There are beautiful Perp. roofs throughout, and much good modern glass. Two fine Norman arches to the transepts plainly prove that the church damaged by the fire was cruciform, with a central tower.

The chapel dedicated to St George on the N. of the chancel, the vestries on the S., the clerestories and most of the windows are Late Perp. additions. The inconsistency in the orientation, usual in cruciform churches, should be noticed, as should the three windows in the S. clerestory of the chancel, which were designed by Ford Madox Brown, and illustrate incidents connected with St Editha.

In the chancel are three table-tombs with effigies, the central one believed to be that of Lady Joan de

Freville (d. 1339), and the western one of Sir Baldwin Freville (d. 1400) and his wife; the third is that of Sir John Ferrers (d. 1512) and his wife. Each lies under a fine cusped arch (Dec.). St George's Chapel has beneath a founder's arch an effigy assigned to Baldwin de Witney, the dean who restored the church after the fire. The tippet is drawn over the head—a very unusual arrangement. This chapel has two fine Burne-Jones windows. The N. transept, or Comberford Chapel, contains a portion of an effigy which may be either that of William de Comberford (d. 1349) or that of his son John (d. 1400).

Beneath the S. aisle is an E.E. crypt, in which was once a fine wall-painting with the inscription:

> "O dominus dives,
> Non omni tempore vives;
> Fac bene dum vivis
> Post mortem vivere si vis.
> Miserere, Jesu Christe."

To the E. of the church is a ruined wall which is the sole survival of the Deanery.

Between the Wigginton and Ashby roads, half a mile outside the town, stand the ruins of the "Spital Chapel," a battered relic which deserves careful reparation. It was the chapel of St James's Hospital, an institution evidently founded in the Norman period, probably by a Marmion. It has features in three styles, its N. doorway being Norman, its beautiful S. doorway E.E., and its windows Dec.

"The Moat," on the Lichfield Road, is a handsome Elizabethan gabled mansion of brick, built about 1572. The Town Hall (with arches beneath) and the almshouses, which the town owes to Thomas Guy,

still stand much as he left them. He first built the almshouses in 1678 for six poor women, and in 1693 enlarged them to accommodate fourteen men and women, and added a library. He built the Town Hall in 1701.

Tatenhill is 3 m. from Burton-on-Trent. The church (St Michael and All Angels) has lost its oldest possession—the early cross which now stands in the churchyard at Rolleston—and is not, architecturally, of any great interest. The tower is Perp., but has been a good deal pulled about, and the top stage has been rebuilt. The S. doorway, the chancel arch, and the sedilia and piscina are E.E.; the N. doorway is probably Dec. The windows of the nave are very late Perp., and the side windows of the chancel are rather earlier in that period. The font is probably E.E. The chancel contains a good mural monument to Sir Henry Griffiths (1641).

Tean (Upper) is 1 m. from its station. It became a parish in 1844, Lower Tean remaining in the parish of Checkley. There are large tape mills at Upper Tean, and the old Hall, which contains some old black-and-white work, is used as the mill office.

Tettenhall (2 m. from Wolverhampton) is the chief residential suburb of that town. Its name—"the outlook by the meadow"—fits very aptly its happy situation, partly upon a long wooded ridge, and partly below it, by the side of the Smestow brook. It has been fortunate enough to retain, in spite of Inclosure Commissioners, two picturesque greens. It was here that in 910 King Edward the Elder gained a victory over the Danes. "This year" (910), says the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, "the army of the Danes and the English fought at Totanheale on the eighth of the Ides of August, and the English had the victory."

Some barrows in the fields below Tettenhall Wood are probably the resting-places of the slain.

The church (St Michael and All Angels) stands in pretty surroundings, and is of considerable interest. Like the neighbouring church at Wolverhampton this had a collegiate establishment of a dean and four prebendaries, but, unlike Wolverhampton, lost it as early as the Reformation. The present building retains a Norman pier and capital at either end of its northern nave arcade, but otherwise both arcades are E.E., with a Perp. clerestory. The N. aisle is Dec. The round arch opening from the chancel into the Wrottesley Chapel on the N. is Trans., but the remainder of its arcades are very late E.E. (*c.* 1270). There is a fine five-light lancet window at the E. end, with detached columns inside following the mullions, and a piscina. The choir-stalls are old, and have fairly well carved miserere seats.[1] In the inner S. aisle, or Fowler Chapel, there is a lancet window of three lights, and another window has some jumbled fragments of ancient glass. The Wrottesley Chapel, which has a fine 15th cent. parclose screen, contains two exceptionally well preserved monuments, one an incised alabaster slab to the memory of Richard and Dorothy Wrottesley (1517) and their sixteen children, and the other the table-tomb, with effigies of John and Elizabeth Wrottesley (1580) and their eleven children. It also contains eighteen painted shields with the proper quarterings of successive generations of the family. The Norman font belonging to the church is now in St Mary's, Wolverhampton, the present font being an octagonal Perp. one.

[1] On the N. wall of the chancel is a mural monument with a kneeling figure of Joan, wife of Richard Cresswell (1590).

The tower is Dec. In the churchyard are two venerable yews, with some ancient stone coffin-lids lying by them.

At The Barnhurst (1½ m. away) there is a good Elizabethan gatehouse and dovecots of brick, the survivals of a large manor-house belonging to the Cresswell family; but the pleasure of a visit is occasionally a little discounted by the fact that the buildings stand upon the Wolverhampton sewage-farm.

Wrottesley (3 m.) has been the residence of the family to which it gives its name for more than seven centuries, the present Lord Wrottesley being twenty-second in direct male descent from Simon, who was enfeoffed in the manor in 1164. It has descended from father to son continuously since that date, a remarkable record. The family played a leading part in early Staffordshire history, and gained a baronetcy in 1642, and a barony in 1838. Its most distinguished members have been Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, who fought in the Black Prince's retinue at Crecy and was one of the original Knights of the Garter, and Sir Walter Wrottesley, who was appointed governor of Calais by Warwick, the king-maker.

In view of such a history, it is melancholy that Wrottesley Hall (built 1686) should now be a mere burnt-out shell. It was gutted by fire in 1897, and has never been rebuilt.

Thorpe Constantine is a small village 5 m. from Tamworth. The Constantines were its early Norman lords. The church (St Constantine) was rebuilt in 1883.

Tipton is a Black Country town of some 30,000 inhabitants. The parish church (St Martin) was removed from its original site in 1797, and its only ancient possession of much interest is the earliest

volume of its parish register, which extends from 1513 to 1519, and is probably the earliest register in the kingdom, the general order for keeping registers not having been issued until 1538. St John's Church stands on the site of the old parish church. The chief trade of the town is in heavy iron forgings and castings.

Tittensor is a village 1¼ m. from Barlaston Stat., on the edge of Trentham Park. In a field S.W. of the modern church are the ruins of a manor-house, probably of the 17th cent.

Tixall is a small village 1 m. from Milford Stat. Tixall Heath was, in 1492, the scene of a bloody deed. Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, near Lichfield, had for some time nursed a hatred of Sir William Chetwynd of Ingestre, and "on the Friday night before the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist" sent him a letter purporting to come from one Randolph Brereton, in which the writer requested Chetwynd to meet him at Stafford at 5 o'clock the next morning. Chetwynd suspected nothing, and set out for Stafford accompanied only by his son and two servants. On Tixall Heath he was attacked by Stanley's band of twenty assassins, armed with bows and spears, who had hidden in a sheep-cote and a dry pit, and was foully murdered. The widow never succeeded in obtaining redress, but Stanley was excommunicated, and had to undergo scourging before he was readmitted to the rites of the Church. His tomb still remains in Lichfield Cathedral.

Tixall Hall was for long the home of the Astons, a family of enormous wealth. Sir Edward Aston, the head of the house in the early part of Elizabeth's reign, is said to have had a rent-roll of no less than £10,000 a year. It was in the time of his son, Sir Walter, that

TIXALL HALL AND GATEHOUSE

Mary Queen of Scots was housed at Tixall for a fortnight while Walsingham's agents went through all her papers at Chartley in the hope of discovering further evidence of her complicity in Babington's plot. When she was leaving, the country-people gathered round her and asked alms. "Alas!" said she "I have nothing for you; I also am a beggar." The stately gate-house seems to have been built about 1580, a few years before, but the Hall which stood behind it is utterly gone, and the present Hall stands by its side, so making it meaningless. The gate-house is a fine piece of Renaissance work, though now a mere shell, with all its floors destroyed. The columns at the sides of the windows should be noticed; the lowest are Doric, the middle Ionic, and the highest Corinthian.

The next head of the house, another Sir Walter, was sent as ambassador to Spain by both James I. and Charles I., and was created Baron Aston of Forfar in 1627. He is best known, however, as the patron of Michael Drayton, who seems to have lived much at Tixall, and speaks in his "Polyolbion" of—

> "Trent, by Tixall graced, the Astons' ancient seat,
> Which oft the Muse hath found her safe and sweet retreat."

The second Lord Aston was also inclined to patronage of literature, and his copy of Walton's "Lives" is still preserved, with his inscription: "Izake Walton gift to me, June the 14th 1670, wch I most thankfully, for his memmory off mee, acknowledge a great kindnesse."

In 1678, at the time of Titus Oates' pretended discovery of the Popish Plot, Tixall Hall was a well-known meeting-place for Roman Catholics, and the fact was seized upon in the general frenzy of the

nation by Stephen Dugdale, a villainous steward of Lord Aston's, who had absconded with money of his master's. This unscrupulous rascal trumped up all manner of evidence against Lord Aston and a number of his servants and friends and priests in the neighbourhood. On his almost unsupported word, Lord Aston was imprisoned in the Tower for six years; the mild and aged Lord Stafford, and three priests, named Ireland, Gavan, and Bromwich, were beheaded; another, named Atkins, was condemned to death, but died in Stafford Gaol; and a number of other Catholics suffered terms of imprisonment. There are few more shameful stories in English history. According to Dugdale's lying story, it was while concealed behind an oak tree at Tixall that he overheard a treasonable conversation between Lord Aston and Lord Stafford. This tree, called the "Stafford Oak," was maliciously destroyed by fire in 1880. The Catholic chapel used by Lord Aston was in 1845 removed and re-erected at Great Haywood.

Trentham, now a residential suburb of the Potteries, is best known for its Hall, which was until 1905 one of the seats of the Dukes of Sutherland, but in that year had to be abandoned as a residence owing to the pestilential odour of the neighbouring river Trent, which is made noxious by pollutions in its passage through the Pottery towns. The Hall, a palatial building in the Italian style, was mainly built about 1840 from the designs of Sir Charles Barry, the architect of the Houses of Parliament, and stands in a magnificent wooded deer-park of about 500 acres.[1] On a prominent position on the hill in this park a column, surmounted by a colossal bronze statute of the first duke, was erected in 1834. At Trentham a

[1] The Hall is now almost entirely demolished.

nunnery was founded by Ethelred, King of Mercia, about 680. St Werburga, the first prioress, died here about twenty years later, but her body was removed for burial to the sister house at Hanbury. The nunnery continued after the Conquest, and in the reign of Henry I. was converted by Randolph, Earl of Chester, into an Augustinian house. There are, however, no remains.

The church (St Mary and All Saints) was entirely rebuilt by Sir Charles Barry in 1844, but contains fragments of an early effigy of an unknown knight, and a brass with figures of Sir Richard Leveson of Lilleshall, his wife and children (1559), an ancestor of the Dukes of Sutherland, whose family name is Leveson-Gower. There is also a table-tomb with a marble effigy of the first Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes to Queen Victoria (1868).

Trysull (pronounced Tree-sull) is a pleasant village 6 m. from Wolverhampton. The fabric of the church (All Saints) has been much altered from time to time. Interest centres chiefly in the N. aisle, which has on its exterior a low Norman arch, which looks like the remains of the recess for a tomb. The same aisle has two lanceolate windows and a piscina in its northern wall, and in its western wall is an early sculptured stone with the half-length figure of a bishop. In the chancel is another piscina and an aumbry, and the E. window contains a little ancient glass, probably of the 15th cent. The nave has the peculiarity of possessing a clerestory on the S. side only. The beams of the nave roof, the pulpit and the screen are all good 15th or 16th cent. work. The parish chest is a remarkably fine example. It resembles that at Bobbington in being covered with iron bands, but it is longer, and the ironwork bears a simple engraved pattern.

A mile from the village is the wooded ridge variously known as "Abbot's," "Apewood," and "Tinker's Castle," whence there is a pretty outlook over Shropshire. It has no connection with any Abbot, the original name having been Aelfward's Castle. It is well worth a visit, for besides its fine view it possesses a collection of pit dwellings, between twenty and thirty in number. They lie in the wood on the crown of the ridge, and are not hard to find. Excavation could hardly fail to yield interesting results. The village of Seisdon, which lies just below the hill, gives its name to one of the Hundreds of Staffordshire, and it seems likely that this hill was chosen, for its ancient importance, as the meeting-place of the Hundred Moot.

Tunstall is the most northerly of the six larger towns of the Potteries, and has a population of some 20,000. It became a parish in 1837. The Victoria Institute has an interesting collection of the work of Adams and other early Staffordshire potters.

Tutbury is a small town, standing above the lower reaches of the Dove, which possesses the finest remaining Norman church in Staffordshire, and fragments of a castle with a greatly-chequered and interesting history.

The first syllable of the town's name is a word which occurs in other Staffordshire place-names (*e.g.* Toot-hill and Tettenhall), and means a "look-out" place. The site of the castle is a position of great natural strength, and in all probability was fortified by the Saxons. The occurrence of the word "burh" in the place-name indeed makes the probability almost a certainty. At the Conquest it fell to the lot of Hugh d'Avranches, Earl of Chester, but soon passed to Henry de Ferrers, a man of wealth and power, who made Tutbury his chief residence, building the castle, and, with his wife Bertha, founding Tutbury Priory

about the year 1086. Henry died about three years later, leaving a son and heir, Robert, who was a leader on the English side at the battle of the Standard, and was created Earl of Derby by Stephen; but his son, another Robert, in the next reign, sided with the graceless Prince Henry against his father Henry II., and on his submission in 1174 Tutbury Castle was seized by the King and demolished. The estates were restored to the Ferrers line after some years, and the castle rebuilt, but the family was totally ruined a generation or two later through yet another Robert, who on the outbreak of civil war in 1263 brought himself into fatal prominence by his vigorous assistance of Simon de Montfort. In 1264, before the royal defeat at Lewes, Prince Edward destroyed the castle at Tutbury, and in 1266, after the Earl of Derby had renewed and again broken his oath of allegiance, he was specially exempted from the terms of composition obtained from Henry III., and his estates granted to the King's son, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, who rebuilt the castle about 1298. But Tutbury was soon forfeited once more. Edmund's son Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, the violent and self-seeking man who was virtually King of England for the eight years after Bannockburn, at last goaded his cousin Edward II. beyond endurance. In 1322 Edward collected an army at Coventry under another plea, and suddenly turned upon Thomas, who, after unsuccessfully disputing the King's passage of the Trent at Burton, gathered all his valuables out of Tutbury and fled precipitately northward for his castle of Pontefract. But at the very outset, in crossing the Dove at a ford just below the present bridge, he lost a large part of his treasure in the bed of the river. It has been commonly said that he hid it there, but it seems unlikely that he

would select a place whence recovery would be so difficult: probably his waggon horses were swept off their feet by the current. Few people perhaps knew of the occurrence, and those few probably mostly perished immediately afterwards at the battle of Boroughbridge, where the Earl was defeated and captured; at any rate, no attempt to recover the treasure seems ever to have been made, and it lay completely forgotten for five centuries until it was accidentally discovered in 1831. It consisted of no less than 100,000 silver coins, principally English of the reigns of Henry III., Edward I., and Edward II., with some Scotch and foreign pieces. A further find was made in 1883. Part of those first found were claimed by the Duchy of Lancaster, and are now in the British Museum. The result of Earl Thomas's fall was that his estates were seized by Edward II., and in 1327 bestowed on the late Earl's brother Henry, while Tutbury remained dismantled for forty years. In 1361, however, it came to the fourth son of Edward III., the famous John of Gaunt (Duke of Lancaster under a new creation), through his first marriage with Blanche of Lancaster, granddaughter of Earl Henry. The great prince thereupon built a new castle—not, like the earlier buildings, a military fortress, but a comfortable castellated residence —which, after his re-marriage in 1371, he allotted to the use of his second wife, Constance, Princess of Castile. She soon separated from her husband, however, and seems to have lived more at Leicester than at Tutbury. On John of Gaunt's death in 1399, Tutbury, like the rest of the estates of the Duchy, was seized by Richard II., and has remained Crown property ever since. It had, nevertheless, a part still to play in history. In Elizabeth's time the castle was

leased as a hunting box to George Talbot, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, best remembered perhaps as the fourth husband of "Bess of Hardwick." Having the misfortune to be selected by the Queen as the guardian of Mary Queen of Scots, he brought her with a large retinue, accompanied by the Countess to assist in her entertainment, to Tutbury on 4th February 1569. She was removed to Wingfield Manor in April, but was at Tutbury again from September to November, in which month news of an intended rescue by the rebel Romanist Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland caused a hurried flight to Coventry. After this alarm had subsided, Mary was once more at Tutbury from January to May 1570, and was then taken to Chatsworth. She was not back again until after fifteen weary years of imprisonment, mostly at Sheffield, but she came for a fourth and last visit in January 1585. Shrewsbury had now been superseded as custodian by Sir Ralph Sadler, who was a keen falconer, and would sometimes take Mary out riding a mile or two from the castle to watch the sport, but such leniency was by no means approved by Elizabeth, and in April he was replaced by Sir Amyas Paulet, a far stricter gaoler. He finally removed his charge from Tutbury in December, taking her to Chartley, and thence to her last prison at Fotheringay. The Queen's lodging at Tutbury was not in the castle itself, but in what she called "a very old hunting lodge, built of timber and plaster," which stood in the castle tiltyard, and has now entirely disappeared. Mary complained bitterly on several occasions of the cold and damp of her apartments, but she met with scant sympathy.

During the early Stuart time the castle was used as a hunting-box by both James I. and Charles I., who

found it conveniently near to Needwood Forest. At the outset of the Civil War its defences were considerably strengthened, with the result that it was for long a thorn in the side of the Parliament and one of the last places in Staffordshire held for the Royalist cause. In February 1643 it was successfully held by Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough, against a besieging force, and three years later Sir Andrew Kniveton (of Bradley, Derbyshire) withstood Sir William Brereton there for some weeks, but he was at last compelled to surrender on 20th April 1646, whereupon the inevitable Parliamentarian ruination took place.

The picturesqueness of the surviving remains, which stand as usual round a large courtyard, is unfortunately somewhat marred by the farm-house on the S. side, and also by the mock ruin at the S.-W. corner bearing the foolish name of "Julius's Tower," which is an example of nothing but the bad taste of the early 19th cent. The genuine ruins are mostly of John of Gaunt's 14th-cent. mansion, though the great rectangular buttresses of the N. gateway bearing his name, as well as the outer part of the S.-E. entrance, are Stuart additions. "Julius's Tower" is worth climbing to get a beautiful view of the rich valleys of the Dove and Trent, and the great dry fosse is still impressive.

Tutbury church (St Mary) is the only remaining portion of the Benedictine Priory founded by Henry and Bertha de Ferrers, but none of the present fabric can have been built as early as Henry de Ferrers' lifetime. The massive pillars of the nave, and the W. end of the S. aisle, including the S. doorway (lately reopened), are the earliest portions of the church, dating probably from 1100 or soon after; but the nave has suffered through the loss of its original

TUTBURY CHURCH. WEST DOORWAY

clerestory, the present clerestory being a converted triforium. The finest feature of the church is the W. front (*c.* 1160), which has some handsome interlaced arcading, a good window, and a superb doorway, deeply recessed to the extent of seven orders of moulding, the innermost but one of which is of the local alabaster—in all likelihood the earliest instance of the use of that material in an English church. Probably no finer Norman doorway exists anywhere. In the S. wall is a sculptured stone representing a horseman with dogs attacking a boar. The tower, which is so low as to be invisible from the N. behind the high-pitched roof, is a late addition. The chancel is an addition of 1868, designed by Mr G. E. Street.

Besides the church and the castle, Tutbury contains little that is old except the small inn called the "Dog and Partridge," which has a Perp.-timbered front, and is probably of the 15th cent. The "Court of the Minstrels" and the "Bull Running" of Tutbury are of some fame. They were the chief features of the great annual dedication fair held at the Feast of the Assumption (15th August), at which, in mediæval times, all minstrels dwelling within the "Honour" of Tutbury (which for this purpose included the whole of the counties of Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, and Warwick) were bound to attend and render certain feudal services. The minstrels elected annually a "king," four stewards, and juries, formally invested by a charter of John of Gaunt with power to fine any of their number who failed in his duties. This business over, each fair concluded with the barbarous pastime of the Bull Running. An unhappy bull, which had had his horns, ears, and tail cut off, his body besmeared with soap and his nostrils filled with

pepper, was loosed from the priory gateway. The minstrels then gave chase; if they could hold him long enough before sunset to pull out any of his hairs, he became their property; but if they failed, or if the maddened beast crossed the Dove into Derbyshire, he reverted to the Prior. This bad business continued long after both minstrels and priory were extinct (the bull being furnished by the Earls and Dukes of Devonshire as successors to the priory estates), and was only abolished in 1778 in consequence of a Tutbury man being killed in a brawl with the men of Burton, and even then the practice of baiting a bull with dogs in the centre of the town continued, as in other Staffordshire places, for some fifty years afterwards.

The late and worthless ballad which relates that Robin Hood came to one of the Tutbury fairs and was there married by the parson of Doveridge to a certain Clorinda need not detain us. Nor need much space be given to the miserable creature, Ann Moore by name, who gained notoriety as "The Fasting Woman of Tutbury." For six years onward from 1807 she made a considerable income by exhibiting herself to the curious; pamphlets were written about her, and she induced medical men to believe in her; by the aid of accomplices she even successfully came through a sixteen days' watch organized by a committee; but she gave way under a stricter ordeal in 1813, and confessed her imposture.

Modern Tutbury has some glass-works, and works for manufacturing plaster of Paris from gypsum, the coarser kind of alabaster.

Tyrley Castle is ½ m. from Market Drayton, just within the Staffordshire boundary. The castle was built by the Pantulfs, a powerful Shropshire family, but in the 13th cent. came to the Botelers. A

farm-house is now built on the site, and practically nothing of the castle remains.

Uttoxeter (pronounced sometimes U-toxeter and sometimes Uxetter), is a market-town with some manufactures. It is, with the exception of Rocester, the only town in the county which stands on the site of a Roman settlement — in this case called Uxacona. Fragments of pottery and metal-work have been unearthed in various spots in the neighbourhood. It was granted a charter as early as 1252. The town is chiefly notable for two events: the surrender of the remnant of the Duke of Hamilton's army in 1648, and Dr Johnson's famous penance in the market-place. Hamilton, in his headlong flight after Cromwell's rout of his army at Preston, arrived at Uttoxeter on the 24th August. He was "very ill and unable to march"; he had with him a very small force, though it included a number of the Scotch nobles; and General Lambert was pressing him hard. "My Lord Duke and Calendar," says Sir James Turner, "fell out, and were at very high words at supper (where I was), each blaming the other for the misfortune and miscarriage of our affairs." The surrender to Lambert took place the next morning, the common soldiers being for the time imprisoned in Uttoxeter church, and the officers marched off at once under escort. "As we rode from Uttoxeter," Turner goes on, "we made a stand at the Duke's window, and he looking out with some kind words, we took our eternal farewell of him." He died on the scaffold a few weeks later.

Dr Johnson, at the age of seventy-five, himself related the story of his penance. He was saying that he could not in general accuse himself of having been an undutiful son, "but once, indeed," he said, "I was disobedient; I refused to attend my father to

Uttoxeter market. Pride was the source of that refusal, and the remembrance of it was painful. A few years ago I desired to atone for this fault; I went to Uttoxeter in very bad weather, and stood for a considerable time bareheaded in the rain, on the spot where my father's stall used to stand. In contrition I stood, and I hope the penance was expiatory." "The picture of him standing bareheaded in the market-place," says Carlyle, "is one of the grandest and saddest we can paint." A replica of the bas-relief illustrating the event on Johnson's monument at Lichfield has been fixed on the conduit in Uttoxeter market-place.

The town has three worthies of some note—Thomas Allen, Lord Gardner, the admiral, and Mary Howitt, the authoress.

The church (St Mary), is entirely modern, save for the massive tower and spire, which are Dec. work of Edward II.'s reign. The spire was struck by lightning in 1814, and had to be mostly rebuilt. It has some pretty bands of ornament. Under the tower are two table-tombs both sadly damaged. One (*c.* 1500) has the incised figure of Thomas Kynnersley of Loxley, and bears a representation of the crucifixion on its side, the other dated 1555, has the effigy of a nun of the Stanley family.

Wall is a village 2 m. from Lichfield. It stands on the Watling Street, about ½ m. from the point where that street was crossed by the Icknield Street; the length of the Watling Street between the village and the point of actual junction is now, however, represented only by a cart-road leading to the farm called Lawton Grange. At and near the important point at which the village stands there once stood, as might be expected, a large Roman city, named, according

to the Itinerary of Antoninus, Etocetum, but there are reasons for thinking that its real name was Letocetum.

All that now remains visible of the city is a fragment of wall (possibly that which gave the village its name), formed of large stones embedded in the imperishable Roman cement, in the field below the church, but the site for acres round would undoubtedly yield invaluable finds to scientific excavators. Erdeswick speaks of walls here, which were afterwards broken up for building material, and writers of the 18th cent. mention other walls, forming "rooms like square cellars," which have likewise vanished. Excavations on a small scale were attempted in 1859, 1872 and 1887, when articles such as coins, fragments of Samian ware, brooches and tiles were discovered, some of which are to be seen in the Lichfield museum.[1]

Walsall is, after Wolverhampton, the largest of the Black Country towns. It is the oldest corporate town in the county, having been a borough by prescription, but it had no separate parliamentary representation until the Reform Act of 1832. It has a number of miscellaneous manufactures, but the staple trade is the manufacture of harness, saddlery, and saddler's ironmongery. John Wesley had a rough reception on his first visit to the town in 1743, but of a second visit twenty years later he wrote, "There was no opposer, no, nor a trifler to be seen. How is Walsall changed! How has God either tamed the wild beasts or chained them up!"

The only building of any interest in the town is the chancel of the parish church (now St Matthew, but until the Reformation All Saints), the rest of which was rebuilt in a pseudo-Gothic style in 1775 and 1820. The chancel, which is Perp in style, is built

[1] Extensive excavations have been carried out here since the above was written, with important results, but owing to the war the work has now been stopped. (S.M. 1918.)

on the slope of a hill, and has the unusual feature of a vaulted passage underneath its E. end. Internally it is handsome, though its piscina, sedilia, and stone gospel lectern have all been much restored. There are some good ancient stalls. The font is a large octagonal one, coeval with the chancel, but has been a good deal damaged. Beneath the chancel is an E.E. crypt.

At "the Bridge" stands the very beautiful statue of "Sister Dora," executed by Mr F. J. Williamson. She was the sister of Mark Pattison, and endeared herself to Walsall by twelve years' devoted nursing of the poor. She died in 1878.

Walton-on-the-Hill (1½ m. from Milford Stat.) is a village and chapelry in the parish of Baswich.

Warslow (1 m. from Ecton Stat. on the Manifold Valley Light Railway) is one of the many chapelries in the large parish of Alstonfield. The church (St John the Baptist) was rebuilt in 1820, and a chancel added in 1908.

Waterfall is a moorland hamlet about 1 m. from Waterhouses Stat. It takes its name, not from any waterfall in the usual sense of the word, but from the eccentricity of the river Hamps, which at Waterhouses disappears (during the summer) through fissures in its bed. The church (SS. James and Bartholomew) has suffered much from successive rebuildings. The chancel arch, with which neither the present nave nor chancel is set straight, is a fine Norman one. It is elliptical in shape, and has the usual chevron moulding. The S. doorway also has a Norman arch. The chancel is partly of 15th-cent. work; there is a simple Jacobean screen and panelling in the chancel of the same character. There is also a pre-Reformation silver-gilt paten with a figure of the Agnus Dei.

Wednesbury is one of the larger towns of the Black Country. Its original name was certainly Woden's Bury—probably because some rude temple stood upon the hill on which the town is built. It is probable, though not certain, that this is the place twice mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the scene of a battle. In reference to the struggle between the British and the English, the Chronicle says under the year 592: "There was a great slaughter in Britain at Woddesbeorge [one text has Wodensbeorge], and Ceawlin [king of Wessex] was driven out." Again, in 715, we are told that Ina, king of Wessex, and Ceolred, king of Mercia, fought at Woddesbeorge or Wodensbeorge.

The church (St Bartholomew) is nearly all modern, but its beautiful modern glass by Kemp is worth seeing, and the oak pulpit, dated 1611, is perhaps the finest in the county. Some 16th-cent. alabaster slabs are almost completely hidden under the modern reredos; in the chancel is a mural monument with kneeling figures of Thomas and Eleanor Parkes (1602), and there is also a table-tomb with effigies, very clumsily done, of Richard Parkes and his wife (1618). The heads of the figures are, in proportion to the bodies, much too large.

Wednesfield (Woden's field) is a small Black Country town with a population of some 5000. The church (St Thomas) was rebuilt in 1902, after having been almost completely destroyed by fire. The town is chiefly engaged in manufacturing locks, keys, and traps for vermin.

Weeford is a small village just off the Watling Street, 2½ m. from Shenstone Stat. The church is modern, but one window contains some old French glass stolen out of the Duc d'Orleans' private chapel

near Paris during the Revolution. Its subject is Pilate washing his hands.

West Bromwich is one of the larger towns of the Black Country, and manufactures all manner of iron articles. It differs curiously from most towns in having grown up quite apart from the parish church (now All Saints, but formerly St Clement), which stands more than 1 m. from the centre of the town, in surroundings which are almost rural. The only old portion is the tower, which is of the 14th cent.; a small Norman pillar is built into one of its inner walls. The rest of the church has been twice pulled down and rebuilt, first in 1785-6 and again in 1872. The font, which bears a pattern of shields within quatrefoils, is probably of the 15th cent., and there is a pair of effigies (*c.* 1600) off a table-tomb.

The Oak House, said to have been so called from a tree which stood before its front, is an excellent specimen of an old-fashioned dwelling. It has a black-and-white gabled front, crowned by a pretty half-timbered lantern and clustered chimneys. The back is, in a different style, equally effective,¶ being of Jacobean brick-work. The house was built by, and long continued to be the home of the Turton family, but in 1895 was purchased, restored, and presented to the town for use as a museum by the generosity of Alderman Farley.

Sandwell Hall, 1 m. from West Bromwich, stands upon the site of a Benedictine Priory, founded by Guy de Offney about 1190. It was among the small foundations which Wolsey suppressed in 1524 in order to raise money for the endowment of his college at Oxford.

Weston-on-Trent has an E.E. church (St Andrew), which is well worth visiting. The earliest portion is

the tower (*c.* 1210), which has very beautiful belfry windows with arcading on either side. It bears a late Perp. spire, creditably re-erected in 1830. The inner tower arch is of fine design. The nave arcades and the chancel belong to a date little later than the tower, but the N. and S. walls of the nave and the clerestories are modern, as are the N. and S. walls of the chancel, though 14th-cent. windows have been re-inserted in them. Both doorways of the S. porch are coeval with the nave arcade, but have suffered alterations. The chancel is unusual in having arcades; unfortunately these sadly need release from a coating of plaster. The E. window is a good triple lancet.

The two bells in the tower seem, by the style of lettering upon them, to be among the oldest in the county (probably *c.* 1400). One bears a "Hail Mary" legend, and the other the single word "Katerina." There is an interesting pre-Reformation silver paten belonging to the church, with the pierced sacred Hand engraved on its centre. The registers here (like those at Sandon) record the burials of soldiers killed in the fight at Hopton Heath in 1643.

Weston Hall is a good example of a small late 17th-cent. manor-house of stone. It is now ignobly used as an asylum for pauper lunatics.

Weston-under-Lizard stands on the Watling Street, 5 m. from Shifnal Stat. The "Lizard" is a hill 2 m. S.W. The whole village belongs to the Earl of Bradford (head of the Bridgeman family), and is of the "model" sort. The palatial hall was built by Sir Thomas Wilbraham between 1671 and 1688, but has since been added to. It stands in a fine park.

The church (St Andrew) was rebuilt by Lady Wilbraham in 1702, save for the tower (Perp.) and

the E. wall of the chancel (Dec.). In the E. window are some bits of 14th-cent. glass; viz. small kneeling figures of Sir John de Weston and his first wife Isabella (de Bromley) and several coats of arms. On either side of the chancel are two oaken effigies of Knights Templar, well preserved, though unfortunately painted white. Probably they are 14th cent. in date, and represent Sir John de Weston and another member of the de Weston family, to whom the manor belonged until 1349. A number of tablets in the chancel were put up by Lady Wilbraham to commemorate former owners of the estate—de Peshals and Myttons. There is some good modern sculpture in the chapel. The oak pulpit and sounding-board are attractive examples of the carved work of their date (1702). The three bells are all pre-Reformation; two have "Hail Mary" legends, and the other has "Michael veni in adjutorium populo tuo."

Wetley Rocks (2 m. from Cheddleton) became a parish in 1834. It takes its name from a fantastic ridge of millstone grit rocks which stands above it. Wetley Abbey was the home of the painter G. H. Mason, and the scenery of the neighbourhood is again and again rendered in his pictures.

Wetton is a moorland village about 1 m. from Thor's Cave Stat. on the Manifold Valley Light Railway. The church (St Margaret) was rebuilt in 1820, save for the tower, which is probably of the 16th cent. Bateman's excavation of a Romano-British village near here has been alluded to in the Introduction (p. 25). It was at Wetton that Samuel Carrington, the village schoolmaster, who co-operated with the Batemans in their work of barrow-opening, lived, and in the churchyard he lies buried. He did his work so thoroughly that hardly one of the numer-

ous barrows in the neighbourhood seems to have escaped him.

Whitgreave (1 m. from Great Bridgeford Stat.) became a parish in 1838.

Whitmore is a village lying in very pretty surroundings about 1 m. distant from its station. It used to be called Whitmore-under-Lyme. The little church (St Mary and All Saints) was formerly a chapel of Trentham. It is chiefly remarkable for the half-timbered work of its bell-turret and part of its W. wall, this church and Harlaston being the only Staffordshire churches in which half-timbered work occurs. The turret is supported partly on the W. wall and partly on timber posts inside the church. The church was almost wholly rebuilt in 1676, a date which is cut on one of the window sills. The square-headed five-light W. window is very characteristic of that period. There are no aisles, and in the church as originally planned there was no structural division between the chancel and nave. A battered font (probably Norm.) remains in the churchyard, and there is an altar-tomb with incised effigies of Edward Mainwaring and his wife Alice (Boghey) dated 1580.

Close by are the splendid woods of Swynnerton Old Park.

Whittington is 2 m. from Lichfield (Trent Valley) Stat. Here are the barracks of the Lichfield regimental district, where two infantry battalions are permanently stationed. The Old Hall is a fine Tudor mansion of red brick, with loop-holed walls and wainscoted rooms. The church (St Giles) is a modern brick building.

Wigginton (2 m. from Tamworth) became a parish in 1856.

Wichnor is a small place on the Trent, 1 m. from

Alrewas Stat. The earliest form of its name is Hwiccenofre, and the probable meaning is "the salt pit on the river bank." The church (St Leonard) was until 1881 a chapel of Tatenhill. It has been a good deal maltreated, and the remaining features are mostly Perp. The tower is of some interest as an example of Elizabethan brick-work.

The place is chiefly known through the "Wichnor Flitch"—a counterpart of the more famous "Dunmow Flitch." The custom of the presentation at Wichnor seems to have originated in a prank of John of Gaunt, who remitted to Sir Philip de Somerville a moiety of the military service due from him in respect of Wichnor and several other Staffordshire manors in consideration of his keeping at Wichnor a flitch of bacon on offer perpetually (except in Lent) to any who fulfilled the required conditions. The oath made by the claimant was to be in the following form: "Hear ye, Sir Philip de Somerville, lord of Wichnor, maintainer and giver of this bacon, that I, since I wedded my wife and since I had her in my keeping by a year and a day after our marriage, would not have changed for any other, fairer or fouler, richer or poorer, nor for any other descended of greater lineage, sleeping or waking at any time; and if she were sole and I sole, I would take her to be my wife before all the women in the world, of what condition soever they be, good or evil, as help me God and His saints and this flesh and all fleshes." He had to produce two neighbours to swear to their belief that he spoke truth, and if successful he was entitled, as a freeman, to half a quarter of wheat and a cheese, and if a villain, to a quarter of rye in addition to the flitch. Whether any claimants ever appeared is not known, but a model of a flitch still hangs at Wichnor Hall. Budgell, in No. 607 of "The Spectator," gives an account

of the custom, and in the following number makes some play with stories of imaginary claims.

Willenhall is a Black Country town, the centre of the lock-manufacturing industry. It is redeemed from dullness by its associations with George Borrow, for just on the N. of the town, which has extended considerably in that direction, is the site of the famous "Mumpers Dingle," where Lavengro fought the Flaming Tinman, and tried to teach Armenian to the matchless Isopel Berners. But the Dingle has been altered almost out of all recognition since Borrow lived in it in 1825; it seems to have been used at one time as a marl pit, and a branch of the Birmingham Canal has been cut right through it. The old lane to it, however, remains, and the bridge which carries the lane over the canal is still called Dingle Bridge. The Dingle might at least be spared its present indignity of being used as a "tip" for rubbish.

The inn to which Lavengro resorted was, according to tradition, the "Bull's Head," in Wolverhampton Street. It still survives—a very quaint little structure in a tiny square—though it was deprived of its licence in 1908.

Bentley Hall, half-way between Willenhall and Walsall, stands in dismal surroundings, and has only its old stables as a reminder of its associations, the original house having been pulled down. With Colonel John Lane, its owner, and Lord Wilmot, Charles II. arrived here, in his flight after Worcester, in the early hours of 10th September 1651. The arrangement was that he should travel to Bristol as "Will Jackson," the servant of Jane Lane, the Colonel's sister, who had procured a pass thither from the governor of Stafford. For safety the King was given a bed in the servants' apartments, and set out for

Bromsgrove and Stratford-on-Avon the same morning, wearing a suit and cloak of country grey cloth like a farmer's son, and having received a loan of £20 from Colonel Lane for the expenses of his journey. He and Jane Lane rode pillion, and were accompanied by some relations of Colonel Lane, who himself set off to London to obtain a further passport for the King. Charles was safely given into the charge of other adherents at Trent House in Somerset, and about a month later both the Colonel and Jane successfully escaped to France. The family was well rewarded at the Restoration, Jane (who married Sir Clement Fisher) being granted a pension of £1000 a year, and having many gifts made her by the grateful Charles. The Colonel was offered a peerage for his services, but declined it owing to want of sufficient means to support the dignity. He accepted, however, a gift of £2000 and the addition to his arms of a crest of a strawberry horse. The Lanes left Bentley, and sold the property in 1748. Mr J. H. H. V. Lane of King's Bromley is a lineal descendant of the Colonel and the present head of the family.

Wolstanton (Wulfstan's town) is 1½ m. from Newcastle-under-Lyme. It has now been almost overwhelmed by the tide of bricks and mortar which flows from the Pottery towns. The church (St Margaret) was rebuilt in 1860. It contains an elaborate table-tomb, with effigies, under a canopy, of Sir William Sneyd of Broadwall (1571) and his wife, Anne (Fluckersbrook). Figures of their fifteen children adorn the sides.

Wolverhampton was, until the recent federation of the towns of the Potteries, the largest borough in Staffordshire. Its original name was simply Heantun (*i.e.*, Hightown), an appellation to which its situation

WOLVERHAMPTON: ST. PETER'S CHURCH

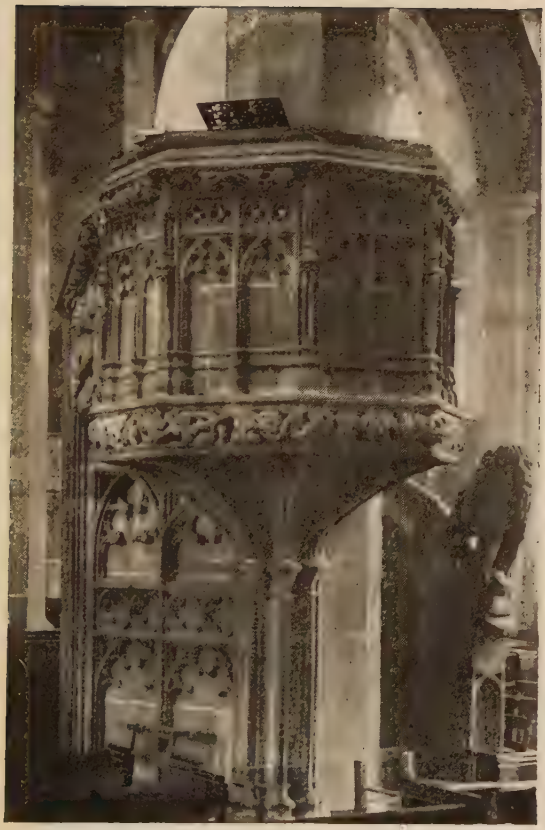
well entitles it, but to avoid confusion with other Hamptons, it attached as a prefix the name of Wulfrun, the 10th-cent. benefactress of its ancient church. This lady, who was the sister of King Edgar and the widow of Aldhelm, Earl of Northampton, in the year 994 endowed the ancient monastery of St Mary at Wolverhampton with lands at many places in the neighbourhood, and constituted the church a collegiate one, with a dean and prebendaries. The town has little history. It has possessed a weekly market since 1258, but did not return separate members to Parliament till 1832, and was incorporated as a borough only in 1848. It was long noted as a Roman Catholic stronghold, and in 1679 two priests of the town, named Gavan and Atkins, suffered death for so-called complicity in the "Popish Plot" (see under Tixall). It has been distinctly unfortunate in its celebrities, the chief of whom are Jonathan Wild and William Wood.

The old parish church, dedicated until 1258 to St Mary, but since then to St Peter, is of large size and of considerable interest. Its most ancient possession is a remarkable cylindrical cross-shaft in the churchyard, some 12 ft. high, and profusely carved. It was for long called Saxon, but its whole character shows it to be Late Norm. work of about 1190. The pillar is now so begrimed that the sculpture is difficult to follow, but a persevering examination will still decipher a rope moulding near the base, and beneath it five half-lozenges, one of which contained foliage and the other four the emblems of the evangelists. The rest of the carving consisted chiefly of the usual Norm. grotesque beasts and birds. The church is cruciform in shape, with a central tower, and is mainly Perp. work of about 1480, but the arches beneath the

tower and most of the S. transept are E.E., and the N. transept was added about 1500. The W. front and the chancel date only from 1865. Why the latter should have been put up in the Dec. style instead of the Perp. in harmony with the nave, remains inexplicable. Perhaps the finest feature of the church is the beautifully panelled tower. The nave is of very fair workmanship for its period, and has a fine clerestory with a double row of windows, but is a little marred externally by its modern and much overcrocketted pinnacles. The lofty stone pulpit and octagonal font, apparently carved by one artist, and contemporary with the nave, are both of exceptionally fine design. Ancient stone pulpits are, of course, exceedingly rare, and this is the only Staffordshire example. The very quaint lion seated on the balustrade of its stair is perhaps a unique feature. The W. gallery, as is recorded by an inscription upon it, was presented by the Merchant Tailors' Company in 1610, and is well carved. The Merchant Tailors were then governors of the Grammar School, and erected the gallery for the use of the boys. The choir has some oak stalls, which were presented by Sir Walter Leveson in 1544, having come to him from the dissolved monastery on his estate at Lilleshall in Shropshire.

The S. transept was formerly the family chapel of the Levesons. It is surrounded by a very good 15th-cent. parclose screen, and has a piscina. The chief family memorials are the table-tomb with effigies of John and Agnes Leveson (1575) and a bronze statue, by Le Sœur, sculptor to James I., of Sir Richard Leveson (1570-1605), vice-admiral of England.

The N. transept was the family chapel of the Lanes of Bentley Hall. There is an alabaster table-tomb



STONE PULPIT IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WOLVERHAMPTON

with effigies of Thomas and Katherine Lane (1582), and a grandiose classical monument to the memory of Colonel John Lane, the succourer of Charles II. It was erected at the cost of the nation, Parliament voting £1000 for the purpose on the colonel's death in 1667.

In the porch is the curious epitaph of Charles Claudius Phillips (1732) "whose absolute contempt of riches and inimitable performances upon the violin made him the admiration of all that knew him." Certainly either endowment is sufficiently charming, and a man possessed of both must have been irresistible. For Johnson-lovers there is an attraction in the Doctor's much improved version of Dr Wilkes' verses to Phillips' memory, which he composed, according to Boswell, impromptu, "while stirring his tea."

On the N. side of the church is the noble, though decayed, brick house called the Deanery, built in 1684. It contains a splendid oak staircase. It was the residence of William Wood from 1692 to 1713, and afterwards of the Deans of Wolverhampton, whose office remained until 1846. Almost the only other ancient house in the town is a small brick and timber house in Victoria Street, though it is difficult to believe that the date 1300, which appears upon it, can apply to the present building. Save St Peter's, all the churches of the town are modern, but that of St Mary, in Stafford Street, is worth visiting, for it contains a Norm. font, with an interlaced ornament, which was rescued from a farmyard near Tettenhall, and doubtless belonged to that church. The church also has a finely carved old Flemish reredos, three eastern lancets filled with old Flemish glass, and has old German glass in two other lancets in the chancel.

Womburne is 5 m. from Wolverhampton. The name means "the brook in the hollow." The church

(St Benedict) has a short early Dec. tower surmounted by a small Perp. spire; the rest of the building (except the N. aisle) was rebuilt by Mr G. E. Street in 1867. It contains an alabaster relief, brought from Italy about 1720, illustrating the parable of the "Good Samaritan."

Half a mile away is "The Wodehouse," a brick and stone mansion mainly Jacobean, but in portions older. It belonged to a family which took their name from it down to the reign of William III., and has since been owned by the Helliers.

Wyrley, Great. See Great Wyrley.

Yoxall is 4½ m. from Barton-and-Walton Stat. The name seems to have been originally Yokes-hale, *i.e.* the meadow of the yokes of oxen. The church (St Peter) was practically rebuilt during a "restoration" of 1868, with the exception of the tower, which is probably of the 17th cent. There is in the N. aisle a fine table-tomb with effigies of Humphrey Welles, of Hoar Cross (1565) and his wife Mary (Chatwine). There is also a well-executed modern tomb with effigy of Admiral Henry Meynell of Hoar Cross (1865). Note also an inn, with the curious sign "The Bull and Spectacles."

STAFFORDSHIRE

Scale 4 Miles to an Inch

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

First Class Roads

Secondary

Other Roads

Railways — Station

County Boundaries

STOKE upon TRENT

NEWCASTLE under Lyme

LONGTON

HANLEY

BURSLEM

TUNSTALL

POTTERIES

LEEK

CONGLETON

CREWE

NANTWICH

MARKET DRAYTON

NEWPORT

STONE

STAFFORD

UTTOXETER

BURTON upon TRENT

ASHBOURNE

CHEADLE

LONGNOR

HARTINGTON

WINSTER

WIRKSWORTH

CANNOCK

LICHFIELD

TAMWORTH

WALSALL

WOLVERHAMPTON

DUDLEY

BILSTON

WEDNESBURY

WEST BROMWICH

TIPTON

COLESHILL

SUTTON COLDFIELD

BIRMINGHAM

BRIERLEY HILL

STOURBRIDGE

HALESOWEN

KINGSWINFORD

SEDGLEY

COSELEY

BRIDGNORTH

MUCH WENLOCK

SHIFNAL

WELLINGTON

OAKENGATES

IRONBRIDGE

COALBROOKDALE

BROSELEY

ECCLESHALL

ABBOTS BROMLEY

TAMWORTH

BARKEWELL

CLENT HILLS

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